From the Big Bang to the Nobel Prize and the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)

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Senior Project Scientist, James Webb Space Telescope,

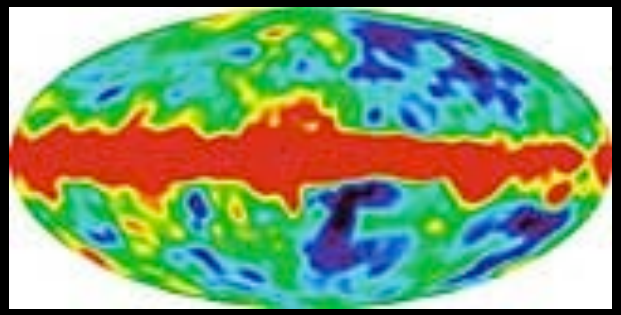
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Oct. 13, 2008

Rutgers Lusscroft Farm - Site of Early Nerds in Sussex County, NJ

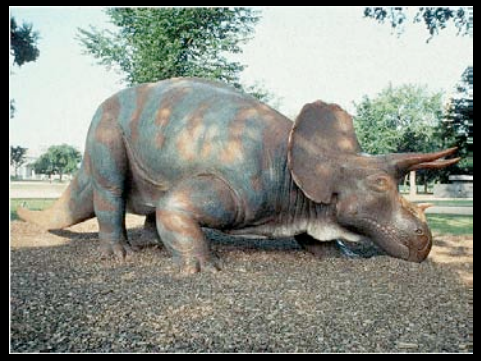
Astronomical Search For Origins

First Galaxies



Big Bang

Galaxies Evolve



Life

Planets

Stars

Can you imagine?

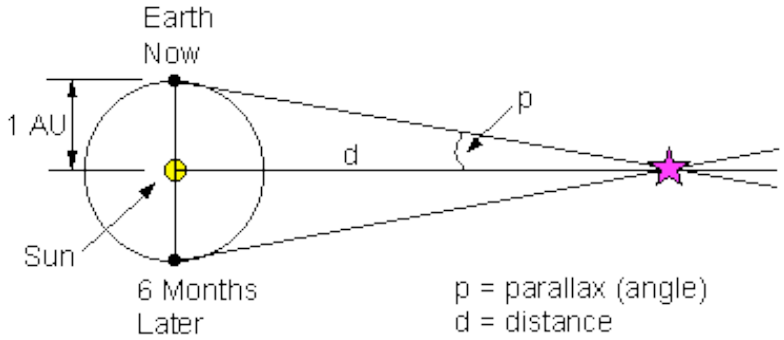
Your chin is made of exploded stars!

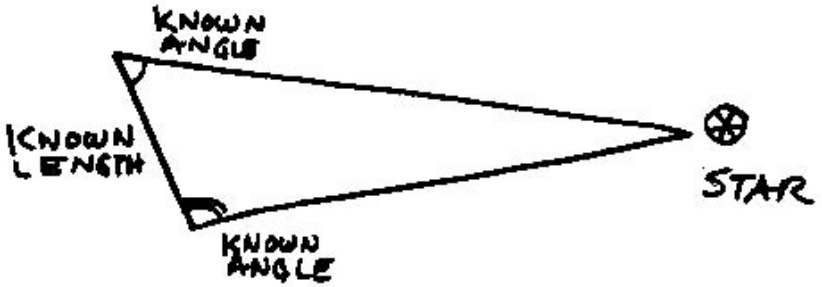
Looking Back in Time

HAND	1 m	0.000000003
EARTH	7000 km	0.02 sec
SUN	150,000,000 km	500 se
STAR		4 YRS
GALAXY		25,000 YRS
BIG BANG	?	15,000,000,000 Y

Measuring Distance

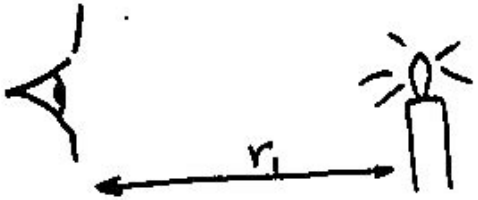
1. TRIANGLES

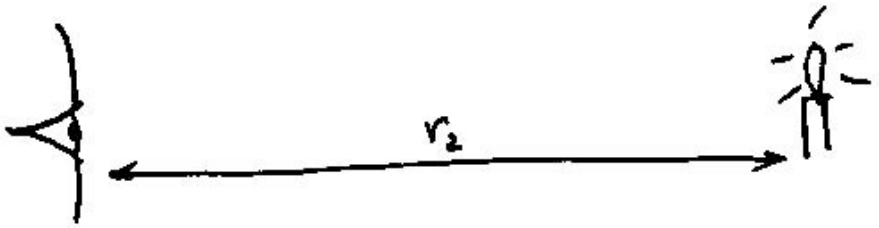




2. STANDARD CANDLES

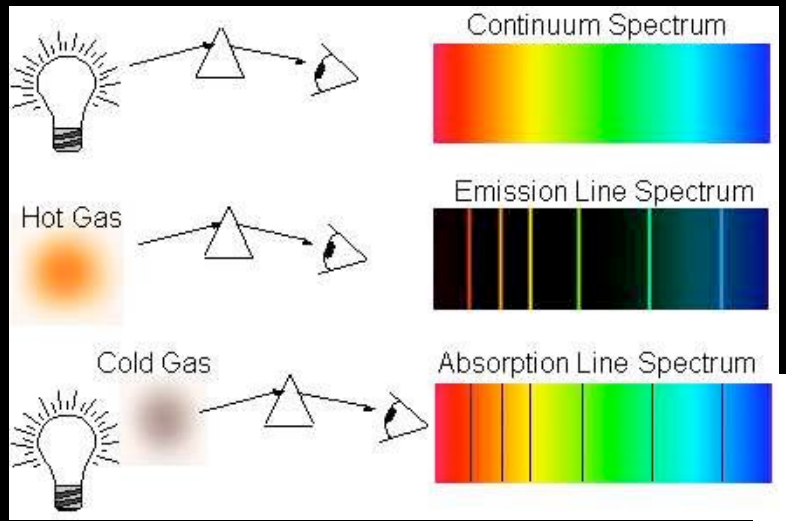
This technique enables measurement of enormous distances

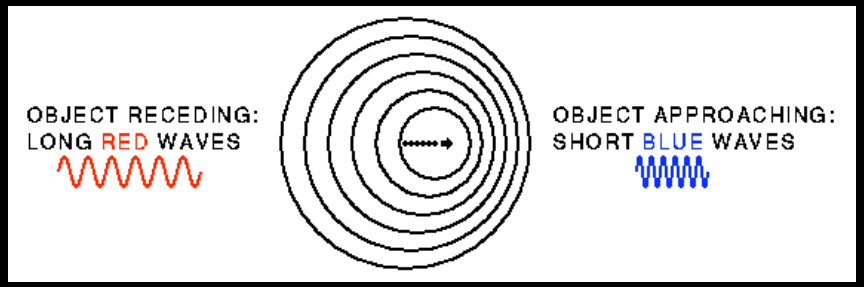


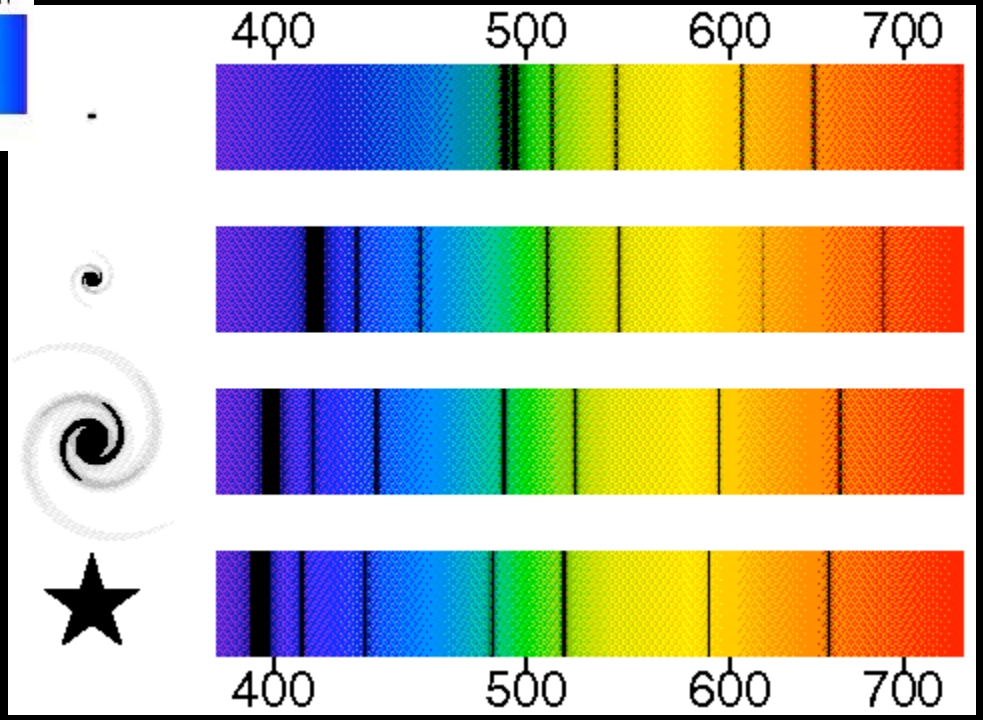


$$\frac{\text{BRIGHTNESS}_1}{\text{BRIGHTNESS}_2} = \frac{r_2^2}{r_1^2}$$

Astronomer's Toolbox #2:
Doppler Shift - Light



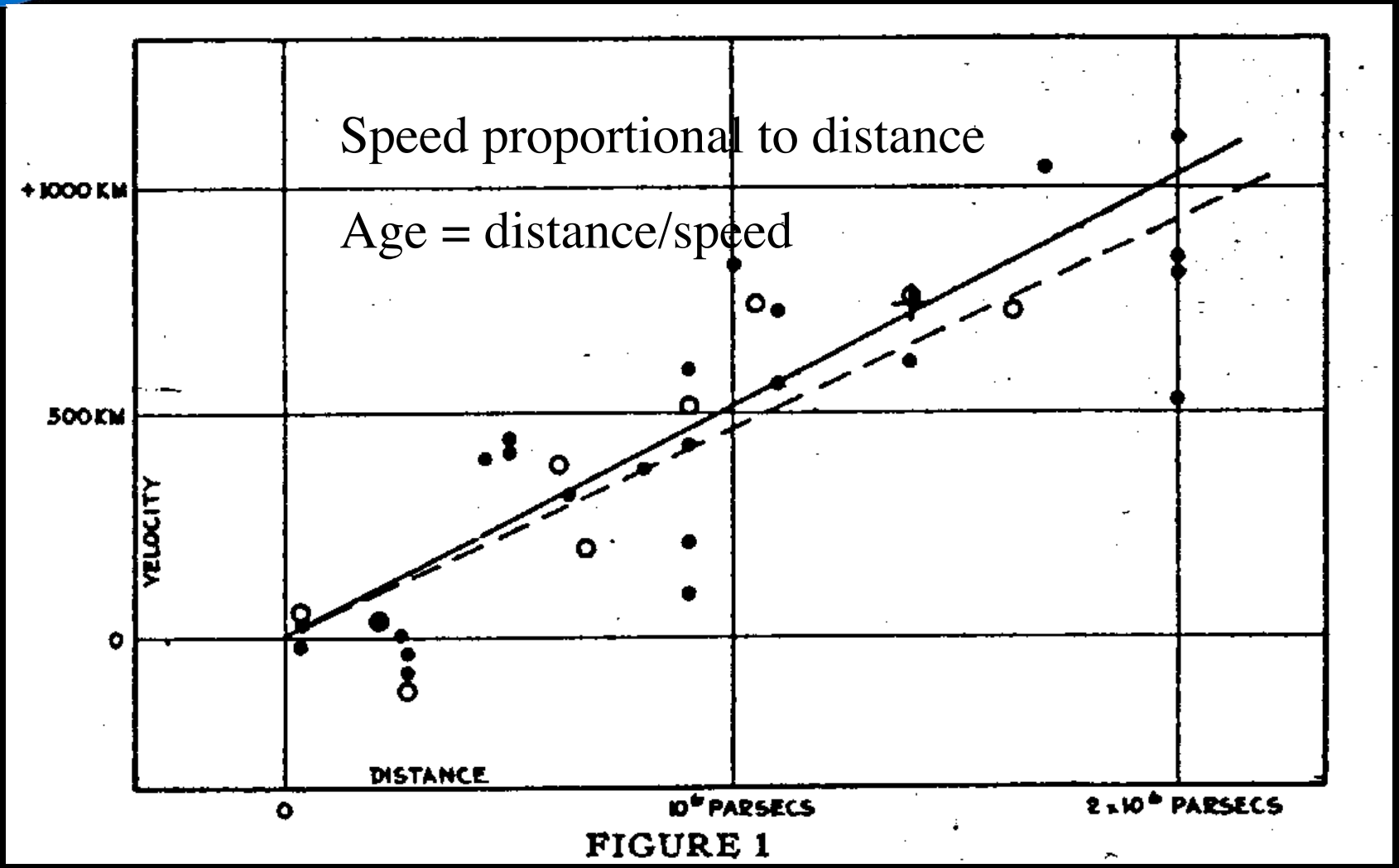




Atoms emit light at discrete wavelengths that can be seen with a spectroscope

This "line spectrum" identifies the atom and its velocity

Hubble's Law - 1929 Discovery



Speed -->

Distance -->

The Power of Thought

Alexander Friedman

Georges Lemaître & Albert Einstein

George Gamow

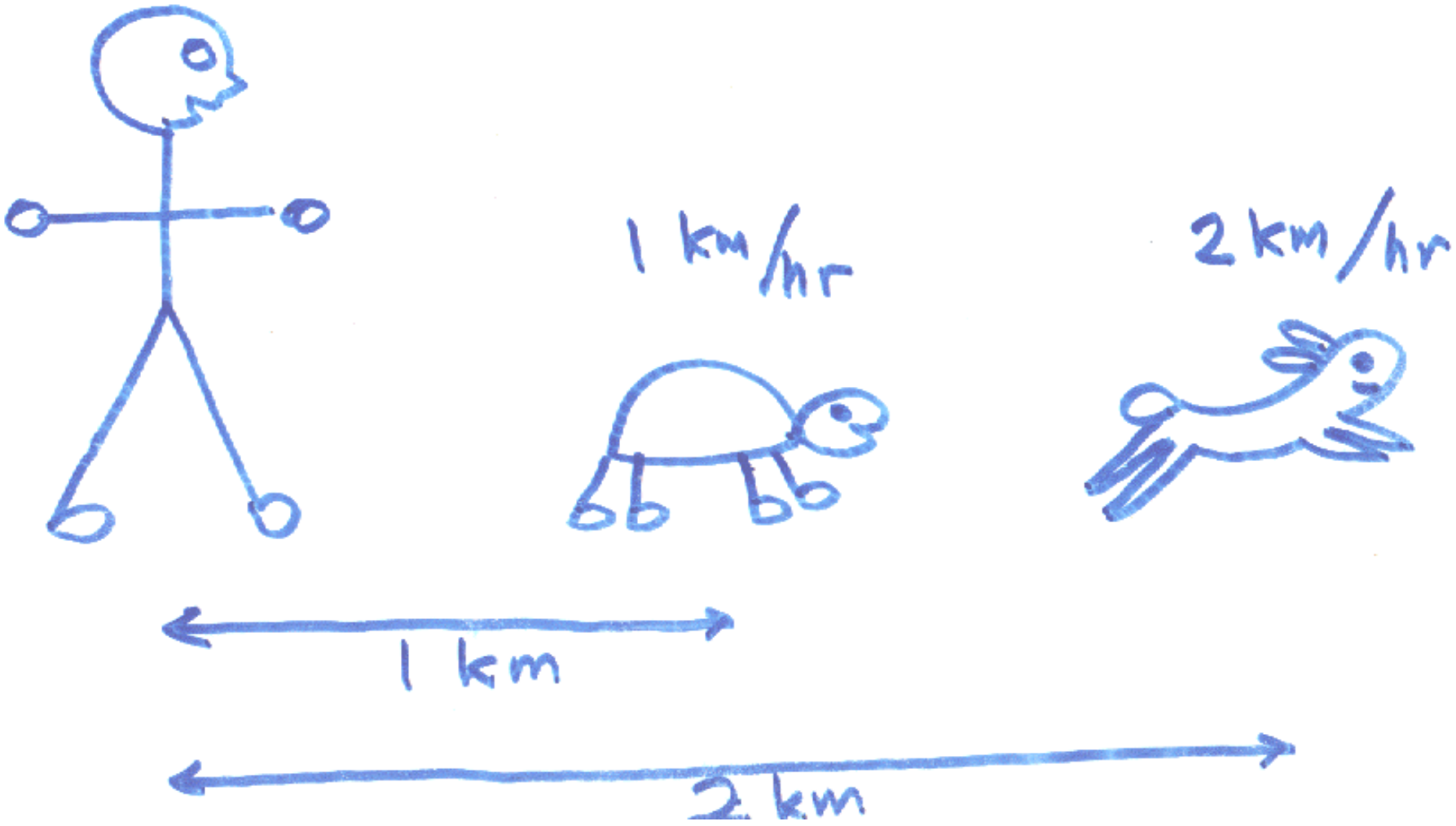
Robert Herman & Ralph Alpher

Rashid Sunyaev

Jim Peebles

HUBBLE'S LAW

NO NECESSARY CENTER!



Big Bang - Cosmic Explosion 13.7 billion years ago

IMPOSSIBLE TO DRAW A PICTURE!

So what happened?

- Primordial material, possibly infinite in every dimension
- Small piece of it (10 cm in size?) does something quantum mechanical with unknown physics
- Rapid expansion, faster than light can keep up with, stretches this little bit into whole observable universe (cosmic inflation)

How did the whole observable universe fit into that little ball?

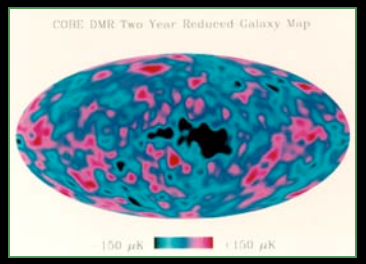
- Space is mostly empty - stars are very very far apart
- Atoms are mostly empty - atomic nuclei are very tiny compared to size of atoms
- Squeeze very hard, and compression can create antimatter and rip quarks apart inside protons and neutrons
- Squeeze even harder, and the known laws of physics no longer apply - space and time may mix into higher dimensions?

How did a smooth Big Bang make complicated things like us?

- Gravity is long range attractive force
  - Matter distribution is unstable
    - Remove heat, and system heats up more
    - Makes condensed objects (stars, galaxies, etc.)
    - Gravitational energy flows support complexity
- Stars release heat from nuclear reactions
  - Heat & light received by Earth support complexity, from weather to photosynthesis

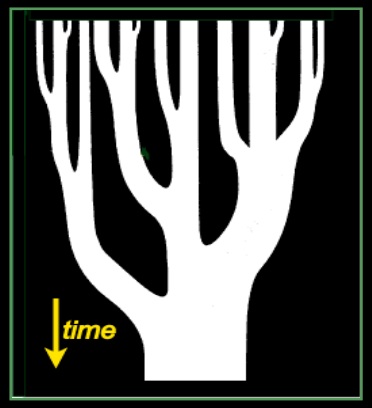
Brief History of the Universe

Big Bang seen by COBE & WMAP



?

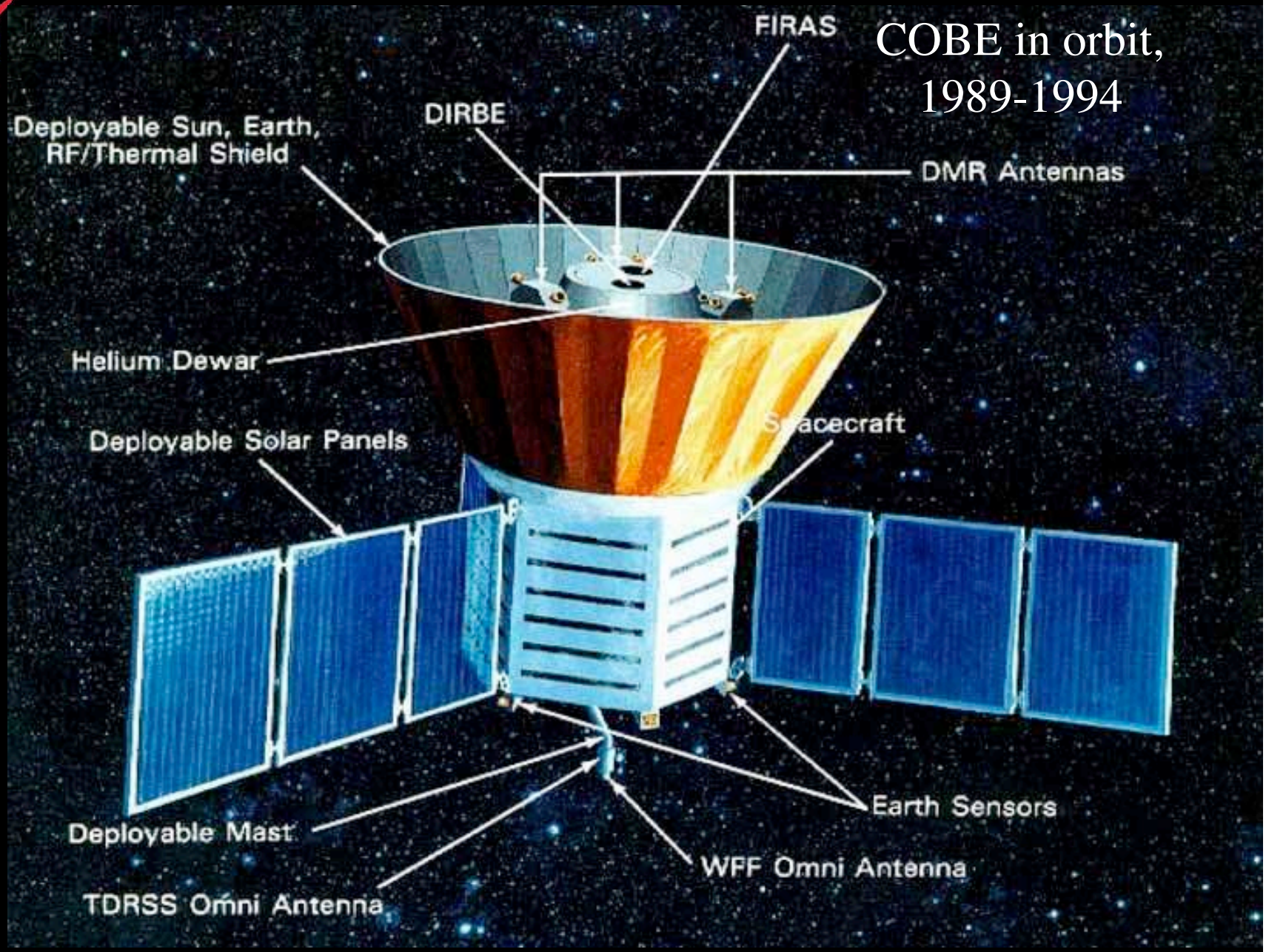
Galaxy assembly

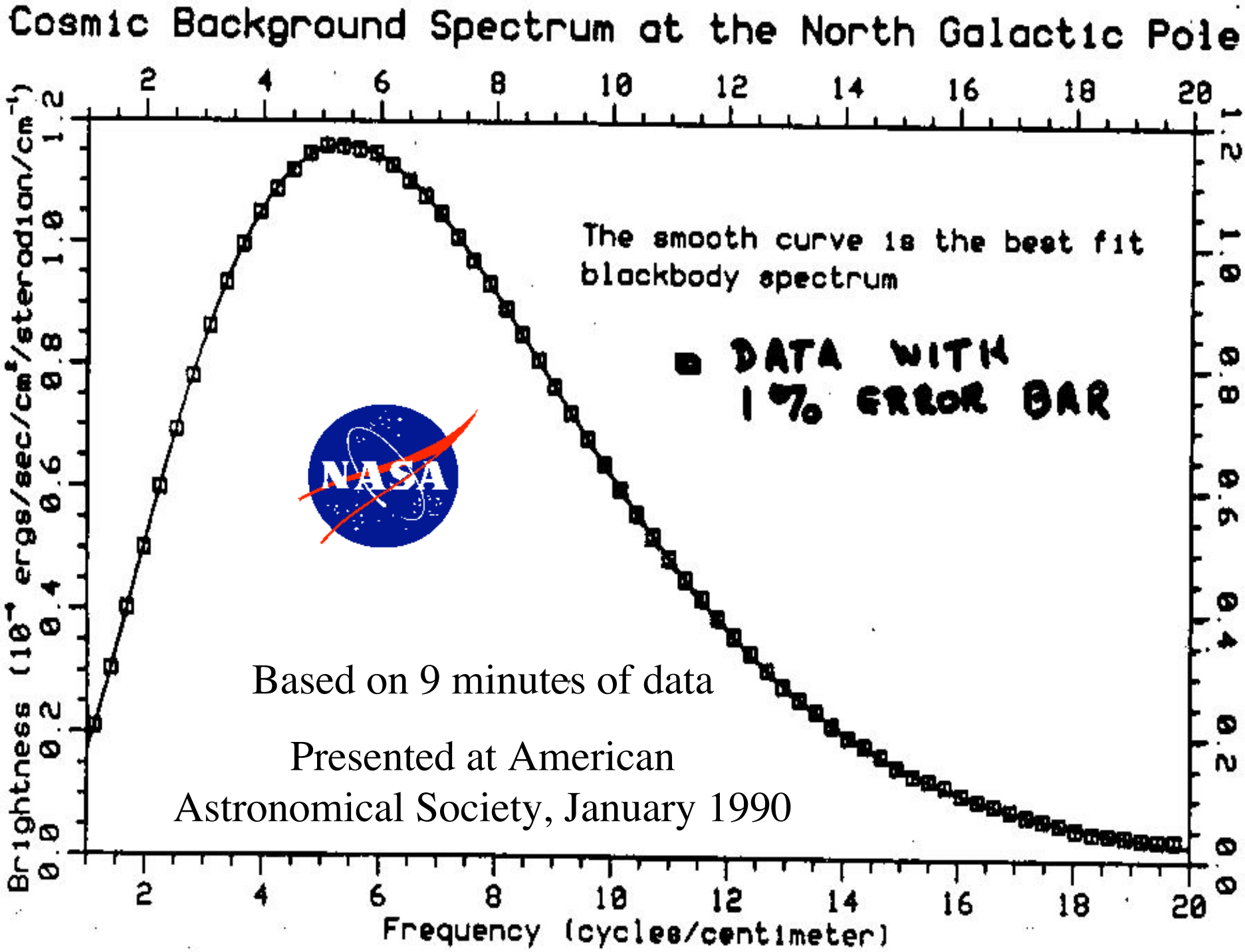


?

Galaxies, stars, planets, life

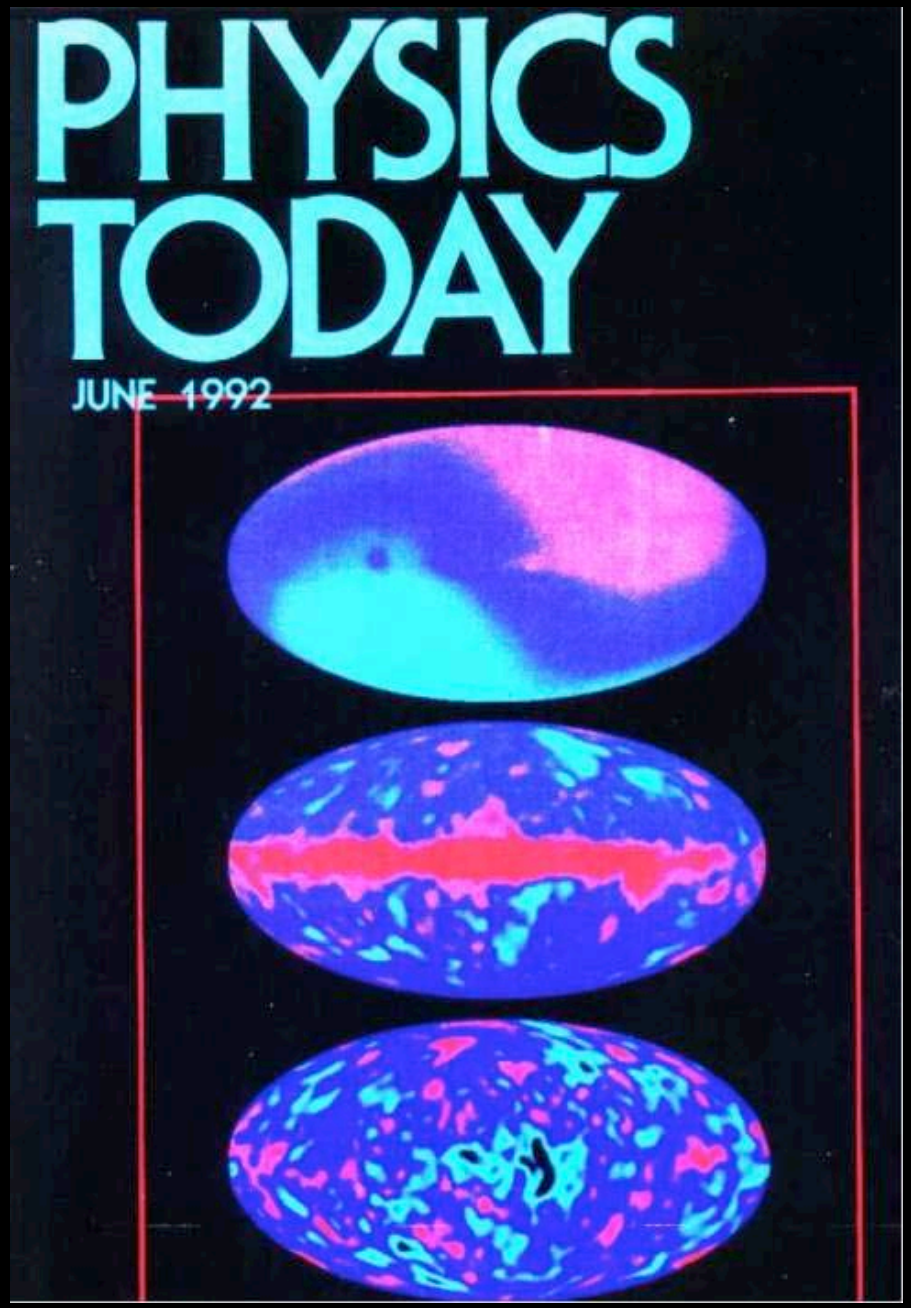
- Horrendous Space Kablooey - exponential expansion, primordial fluctuations, matter/antimatter, dark matter, dark energy, 13.7 ± 0.2 billion years ago
- Annihilation of antiparticles, 1 part per billion matter remaining
- Formation of Helium nuclei, 3 minutes, redshift z = 10^9
  - [1+z = size of universe now / size then]
- Formation of neutral gas "recombination", 389,000 yrs, z=1089
- Population III supermassive stars, super-supernovae, and black holes, z=17 (age ~ 200 Myr)
- Galaxy formation in small parts, star formation, merging and clustering of galaxy parts, until z~1
- Expanding universe begins to accelerate, 5 billion years ago
- Earth and Sun form, 4.5 billion years ago
- Mammals dominant, ~ 55 million years ago
- Humans, lions, tigers, mammoths, 1-2 million years ago
- Telescopes, Galileo, 1609: ~ 400 yr
- Theory of Special Relativity, 100 yr
- NASA founded, Oct. 1, 1958
- Signs of life on other planets …?
- Far future: we're toast (1 billion yrs)
- Andromeda Nebula collides with Milky Way (5 billion years)
- Sun goes out (7.6 billion years)
- Universe continues to expand faster, we lose sight of other galaxies
- Universe goes dark?


COBE in orbit,
1989-1994
FIRAS
DIRBE
Deployable Sun, Earth,
RF/Thermal Shield
DMR Antennas
Helium Dewar
Deployable Solar Panels
Spacecraft
Earth Sensors
Deployable Mast
WFF Omni Antenna
TDRSS Omni Antenna



Based on 9 minutes of data

Presented at American Astronomical Society, January 1990



Sky map from DMR,
2.7 K +/- 0.003 K

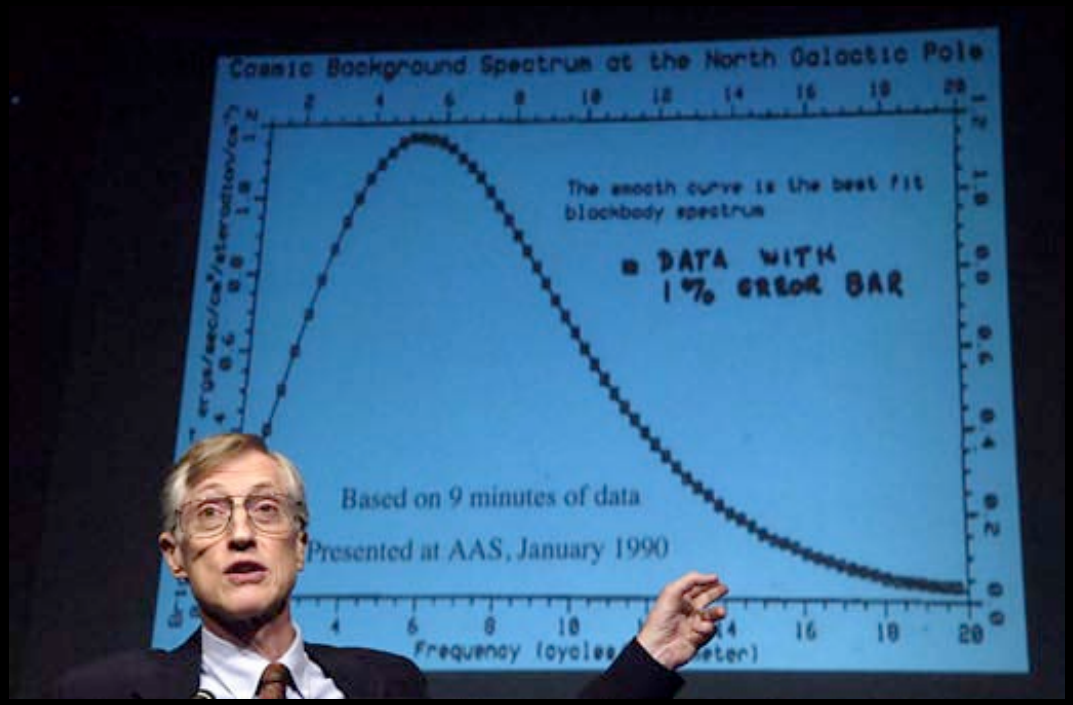
Doppler Effect of Sun's
motion removed (v/c = 0.001)

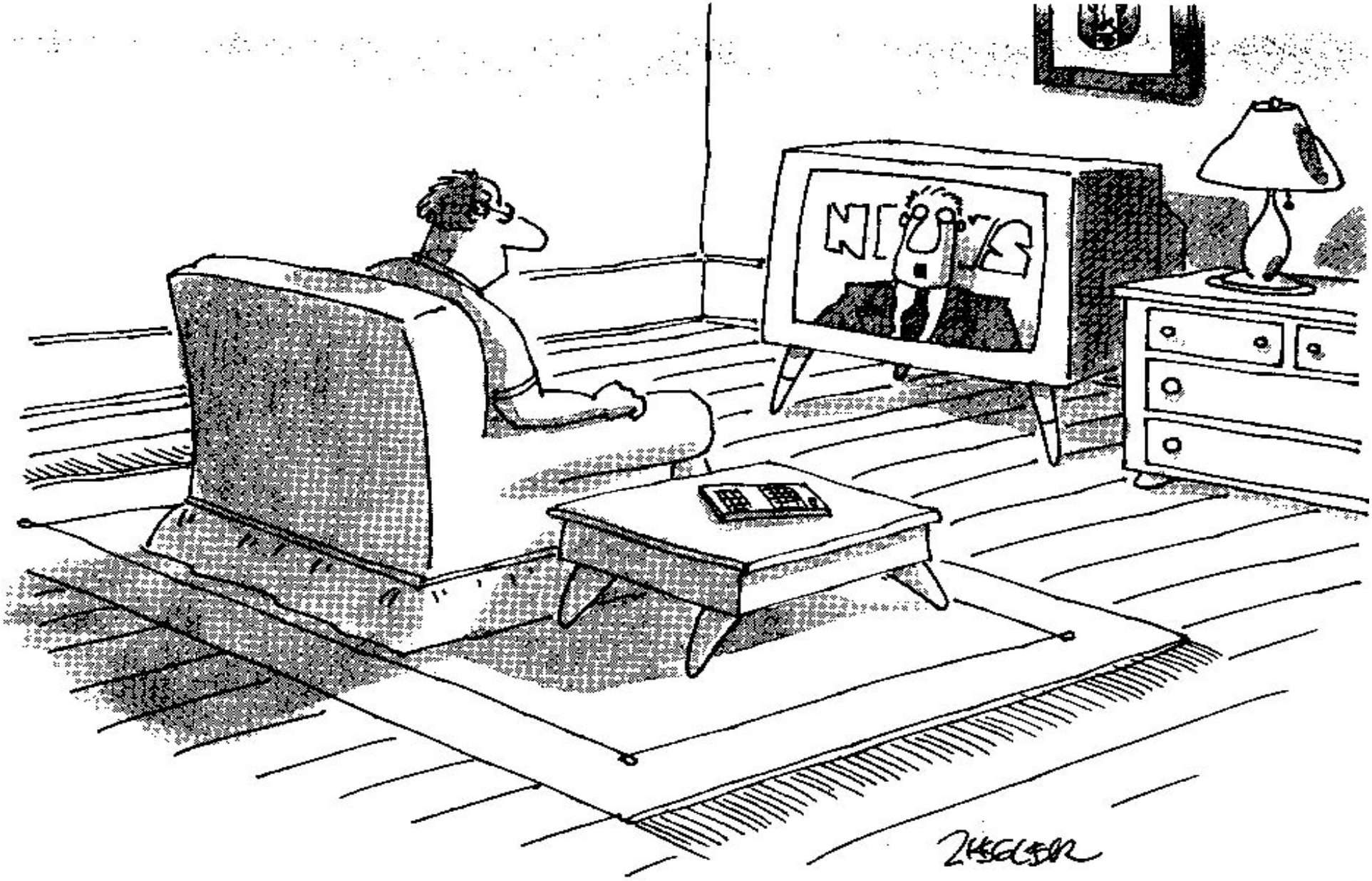
Cosmic temperature/density
variations at 389,000 years, +/-
0.00003 K (part in 100,000)

Nobel Prize Press Release

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2006 jointly to **John C. Mather,** NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD, USA, and **George F. Smoot,** University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA *"for their discovery of the blackbody form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation".*

From Press Conference to Stockholm

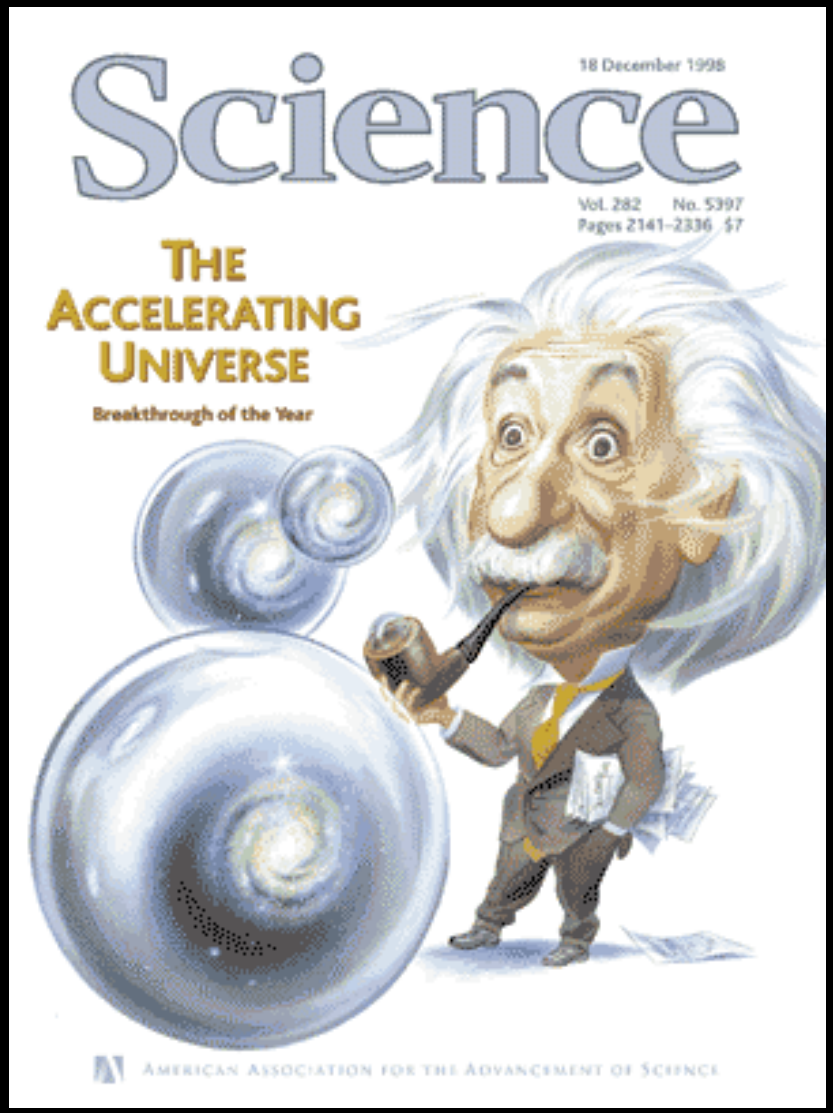




"Scientists confirmed today that everything we know about the structure of the universe is wrongedy-wrong-wrong."

Dark Energy!

MacArthur Fellow 2008 - Adam Riess

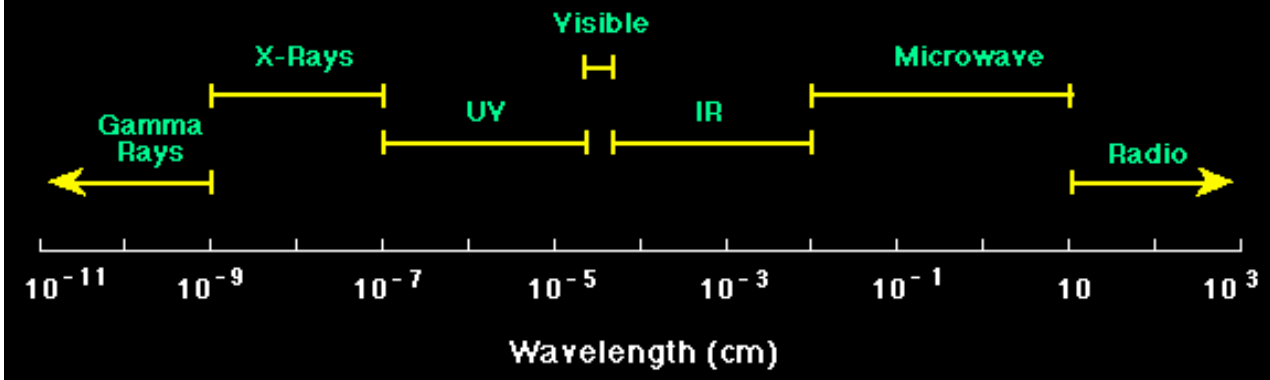


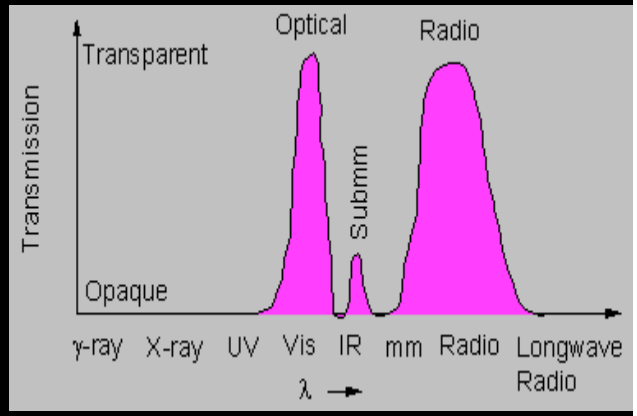
A few big mysteries…

- Why is there matter and no antimatter?
- What is dark matter?
- What is dark energy?
- Was Einstein right about relativity?
- How did we get here?
  - Formation of stars, chemical elements, galaxies, planets, …
- Are we alone?
  - How did Earth become habitable?
  - Any other places that could support life?
- What happens next?

Light comes in more colors than our eyes can see

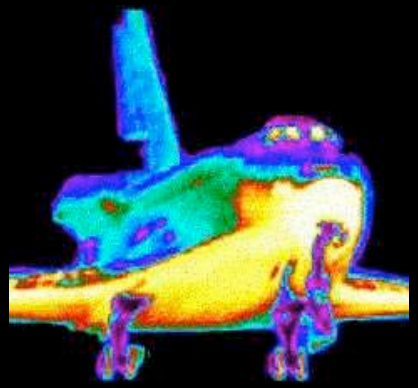
Light from the first galaxies is redshifted from the visible into the infrared.

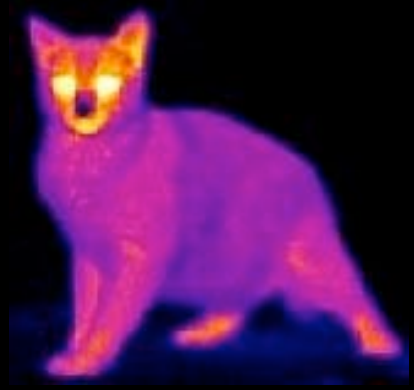




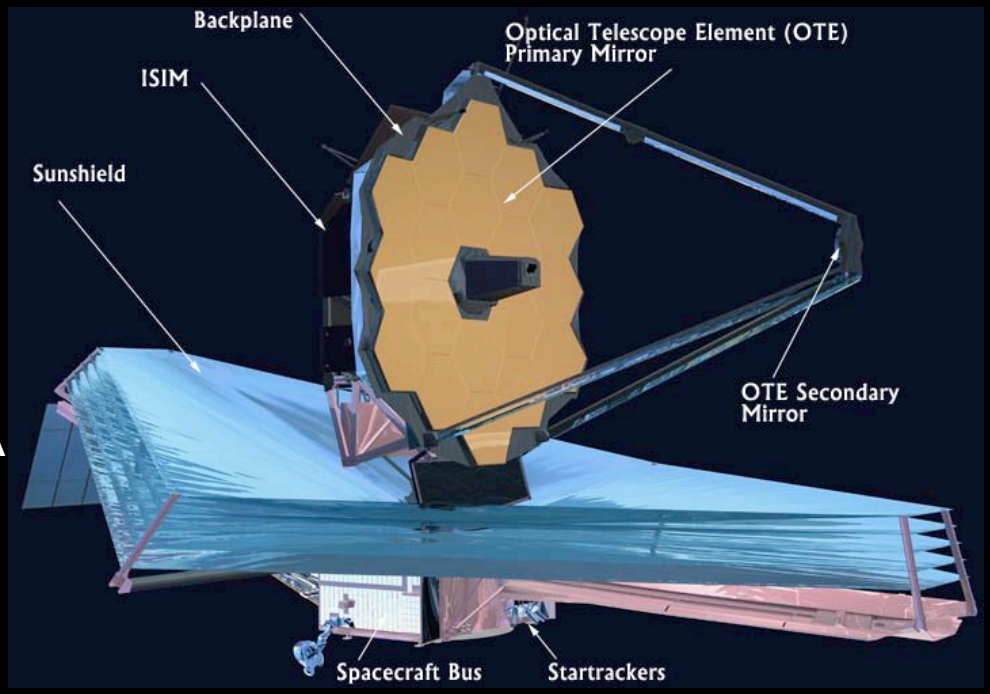
Infrared is heat radiation

Our eyes can't see it, but our skin can feel it





James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)



Organization

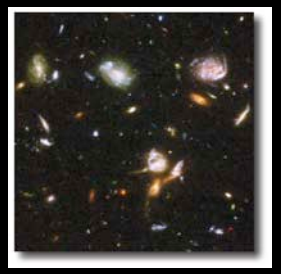
- Mission Lead: Goddard Space Flight Center
- International collaboration with ESA & CSA
- Prime Contractor: Northrop Grumman Space Technology
- Instruments:
  - Near Infrared Camera (NIRCam) – Univ. of Arizona
  - Near Infrared Spectrograph (NIRSpec) – ESA
  - Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI) – JPL/ESA
  - Fine Guidance Sensor (FGS) – CSA
- Operations: Space Telescope Science Institute

Description

- Deployable infrared telescope with 6.5 meter diameter segmented adjustable primary mirror
- Cryogenic temperature telescope and instruments for infrared performance
- Launch June 2013 on an ESA-supplied Ariane 5 rocket to Sun-Earth L2
- 5-year science mission (10-year goal)

www.JWST.nasa.gov

JWST Science Themes



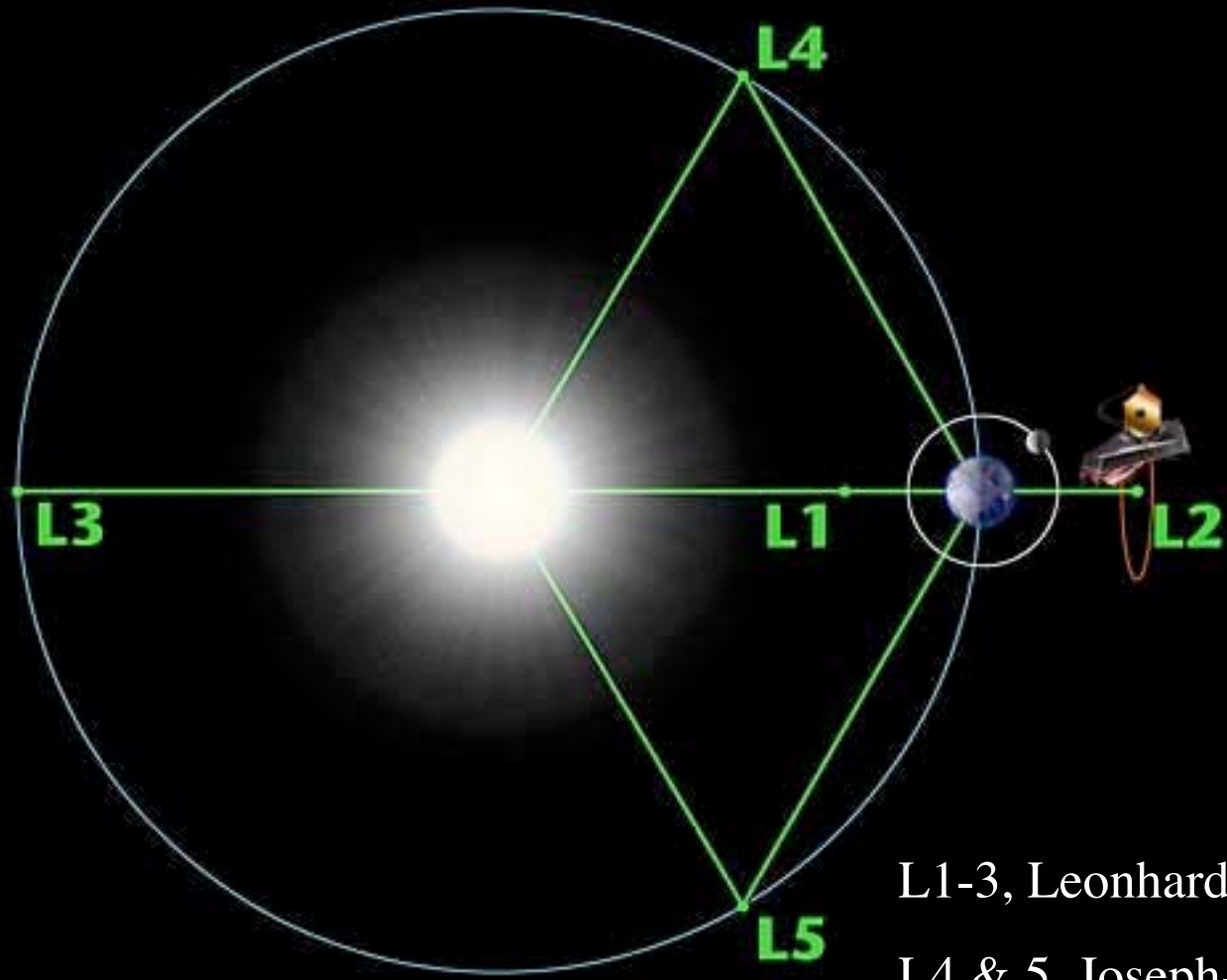
End of the dark ages: First light and reionization

The assembly of galaxies

Birth of stars and proto-planetary systems

Planetary systems and the origin of life

JWST Orbits the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point L2



L1-3, Leonhard Euler, 1750.

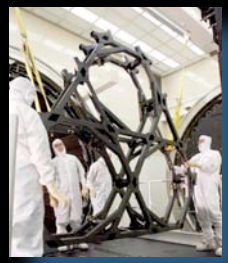
L4 & 5, Joseph-Louis Lagrange, 1772

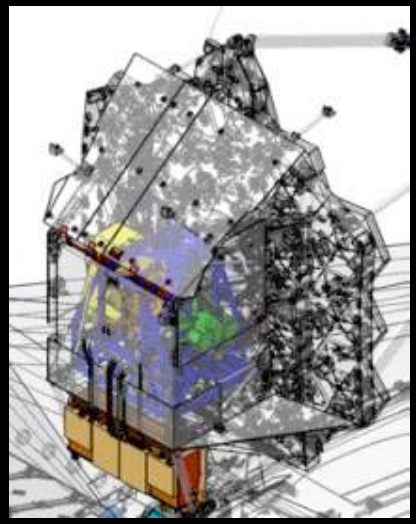
Full scale model at GSFC

JWST Deployment video

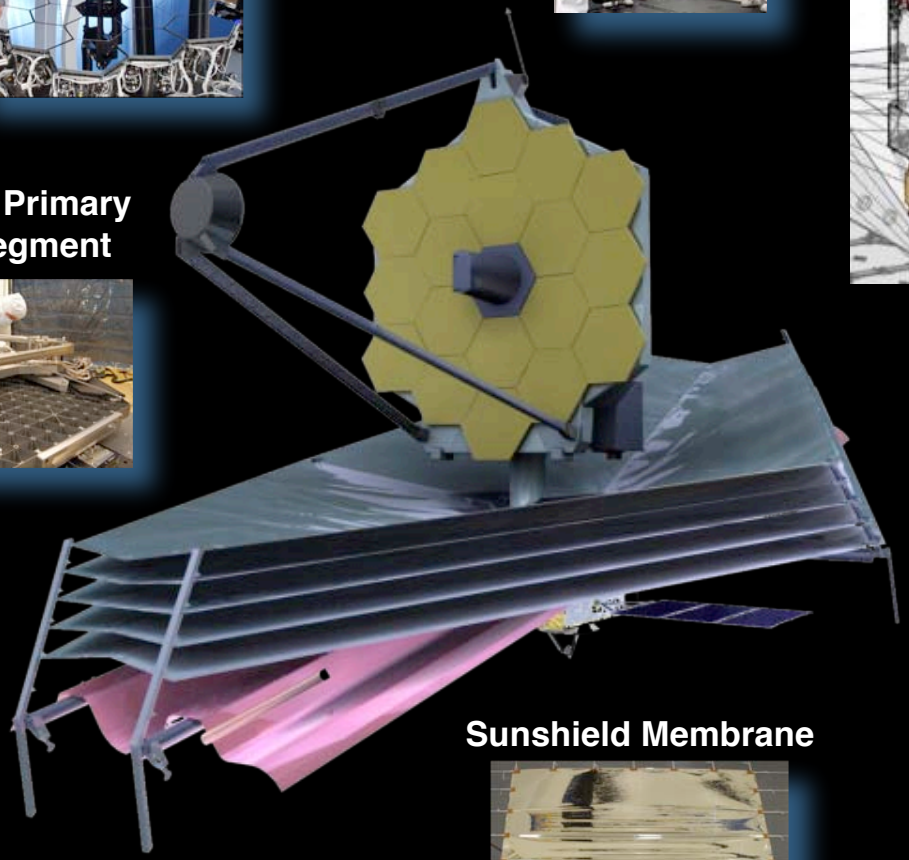
JWST Technology

Backplane



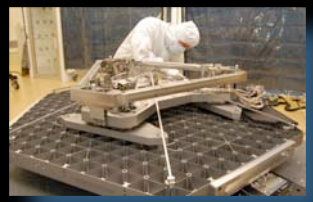


Mirror Phasing Algorithms

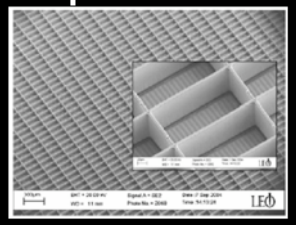


Near-Infrared Detector

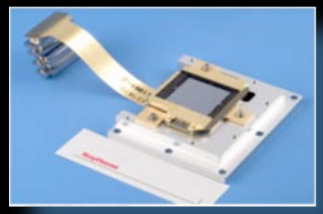
Beryllium Primary Mirror Segment



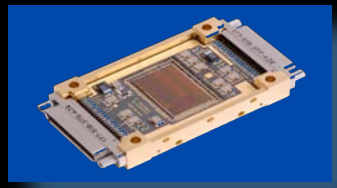
µShutters



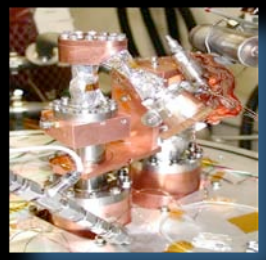
Mid-Infrared Detector



Cryogenic ASICs

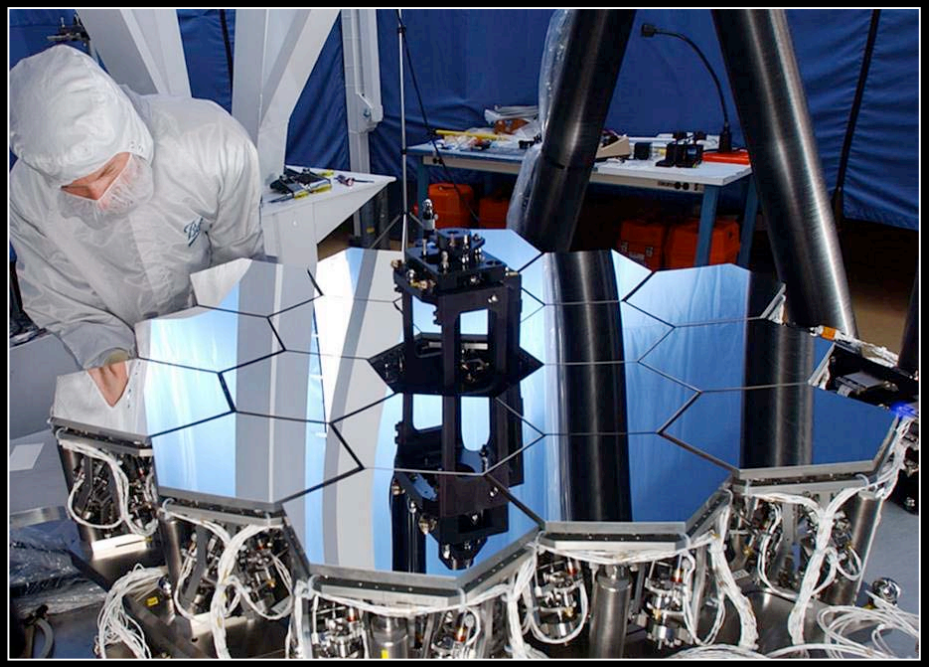


Cryocooler



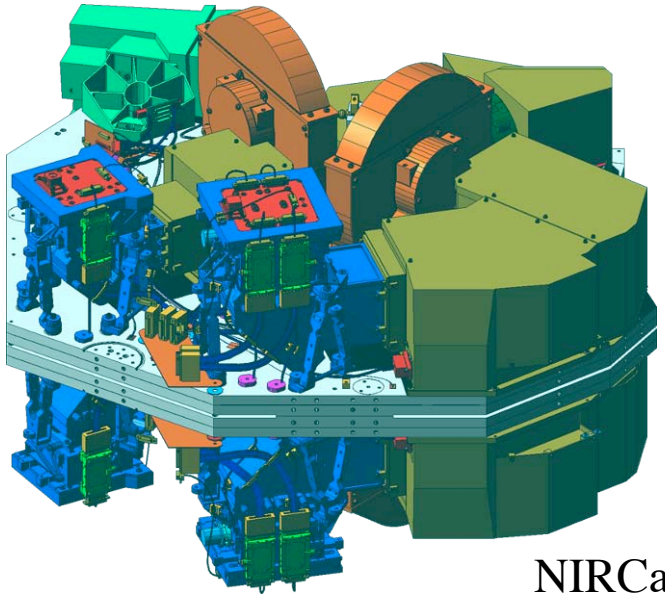
Sunshield Membrane

Testbed Telescope

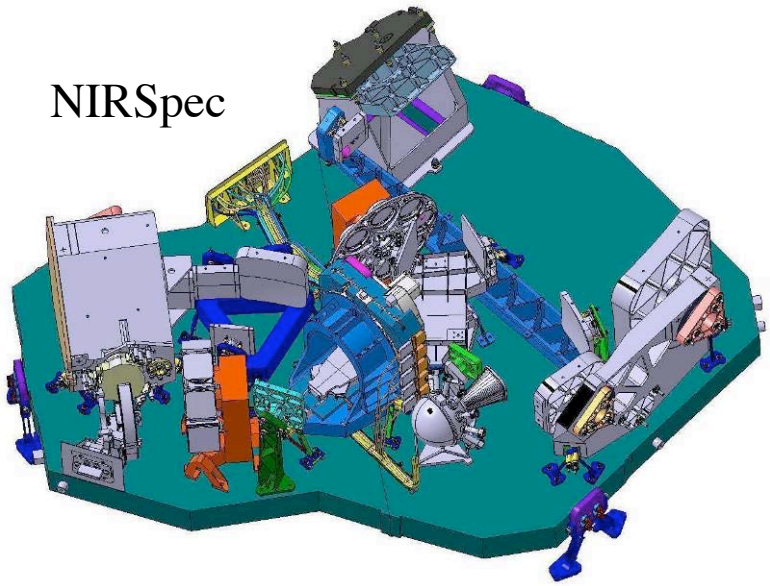


- 1/6 scale model with all the same adjustments
- Proves that all the adjustment procedures work as expected

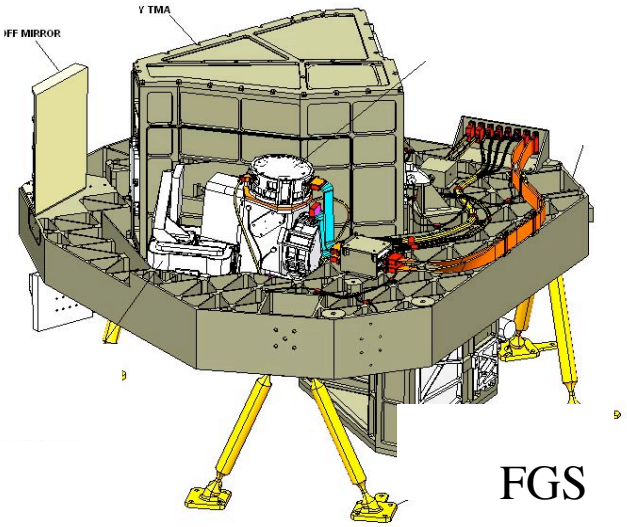
Four science instruments enable imagery and spectroscopy over the 0.6 – 29 micron spectrum



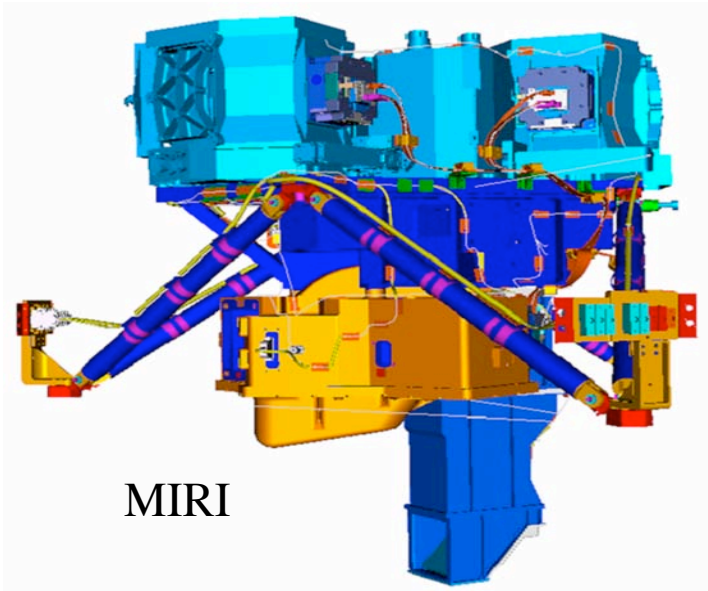
NIRCam



NIRSpec

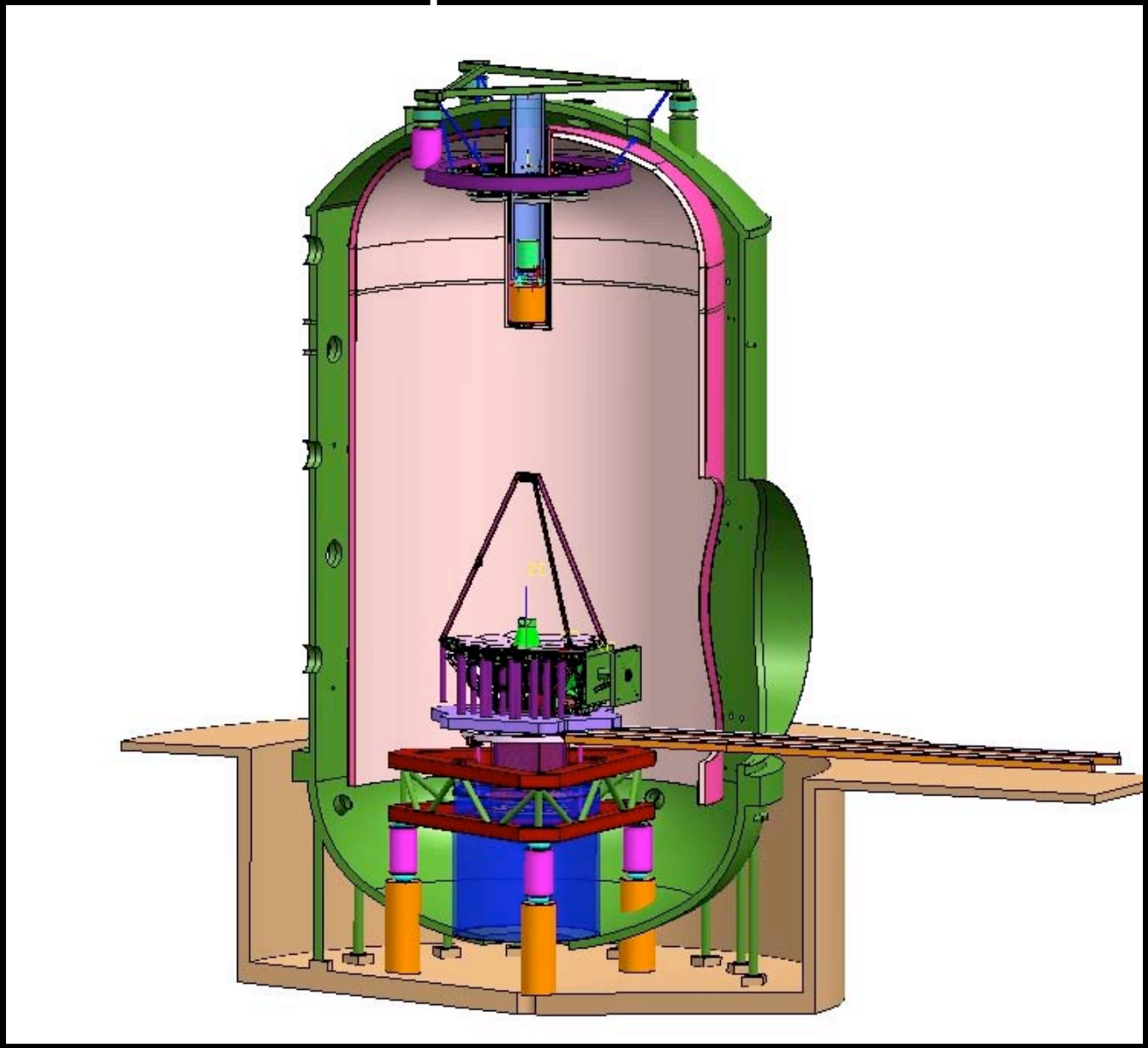


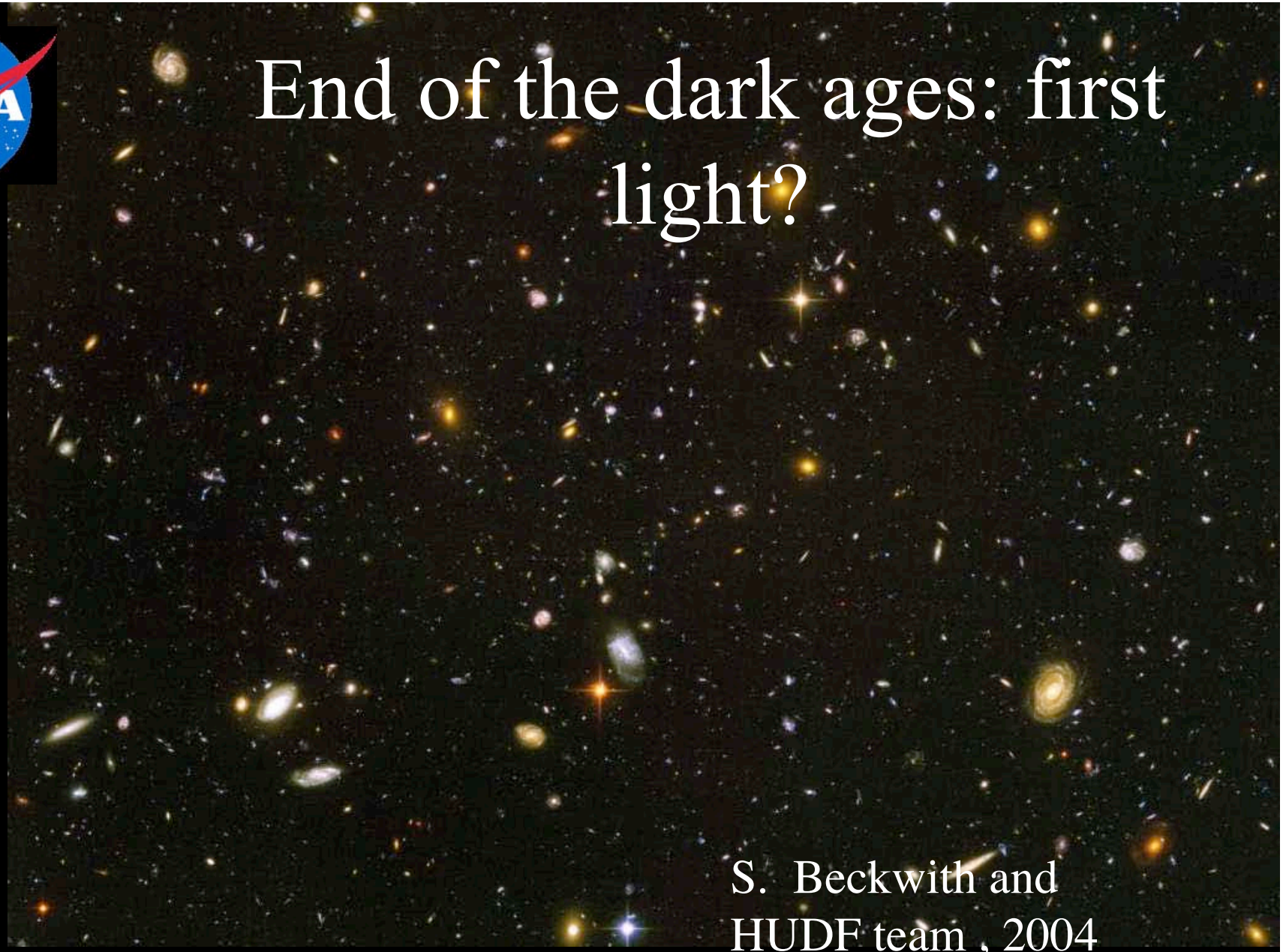
FGS



MIRI

JWST cold optical test in Houston

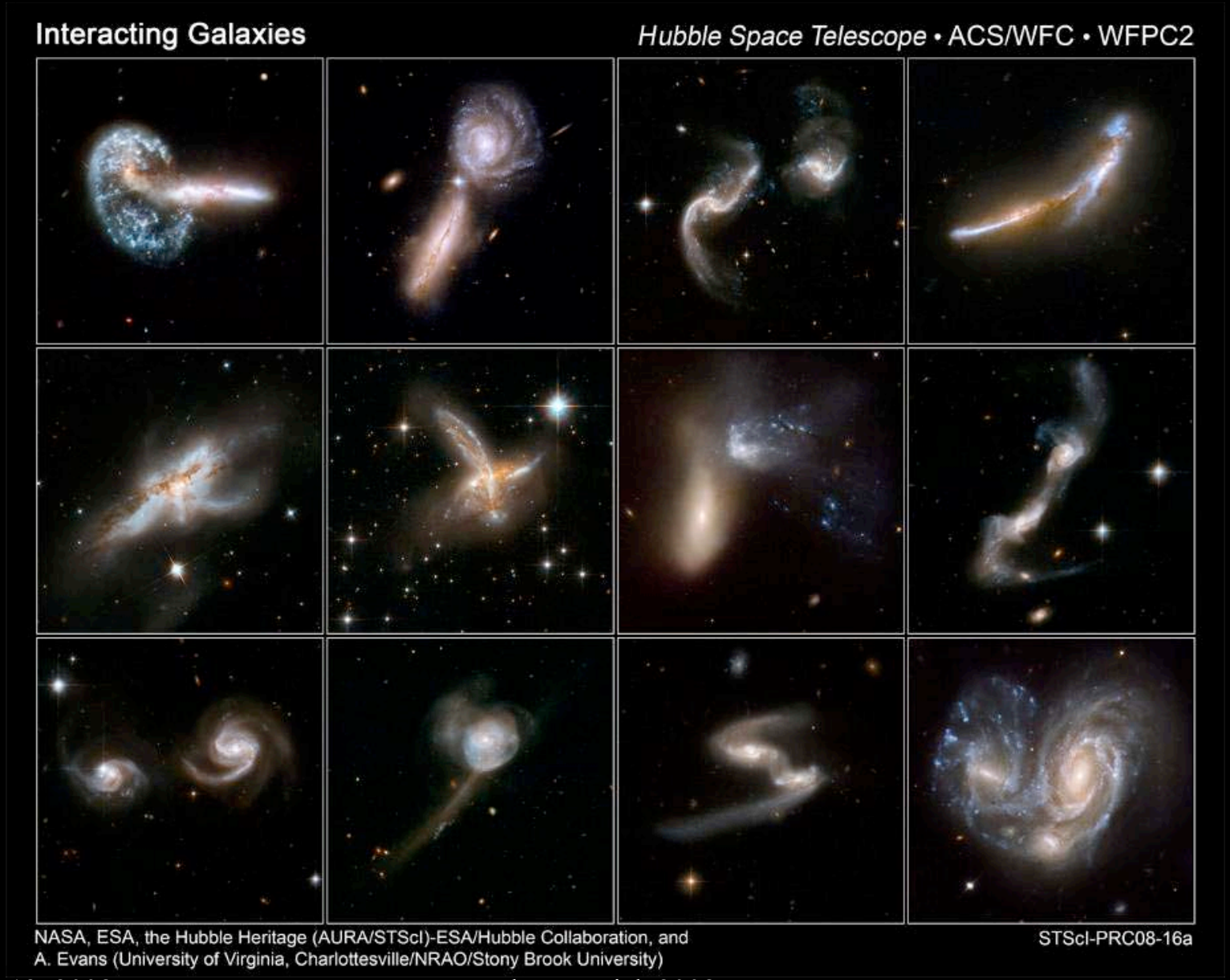




End of the dark ages: first light?

S. Beckwith and HUDF team , 2004

How do galaxies evolve?

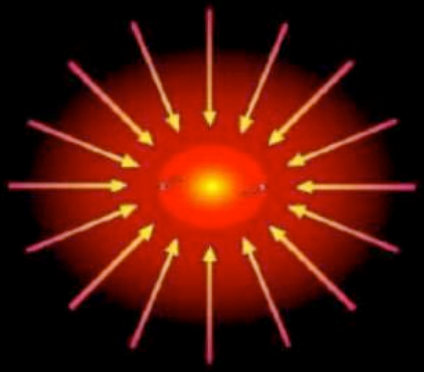


Where and when did the Hubble Sequence form? How did the heavy elements form?

- Galaxy assembly is a process of hierarchical merging
- Components of galaxies have variety of ages & compositions
- Observations:
  - NIRCam imaging
  - Spectra of 1000s of galaxies

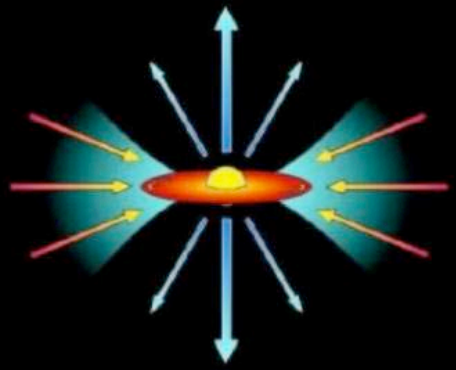
How stars and planets form?

Deeply embedded protostar



10^4 yrs; 10–10^4 AU; 10–300K

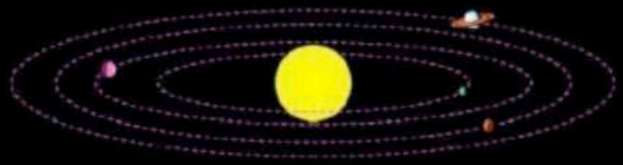
Circumstellar disk



10^{5-6} yrs; 1–1000AU; 100–3000K

10^{6-7} yrs; 1–100AU; 100–3000K

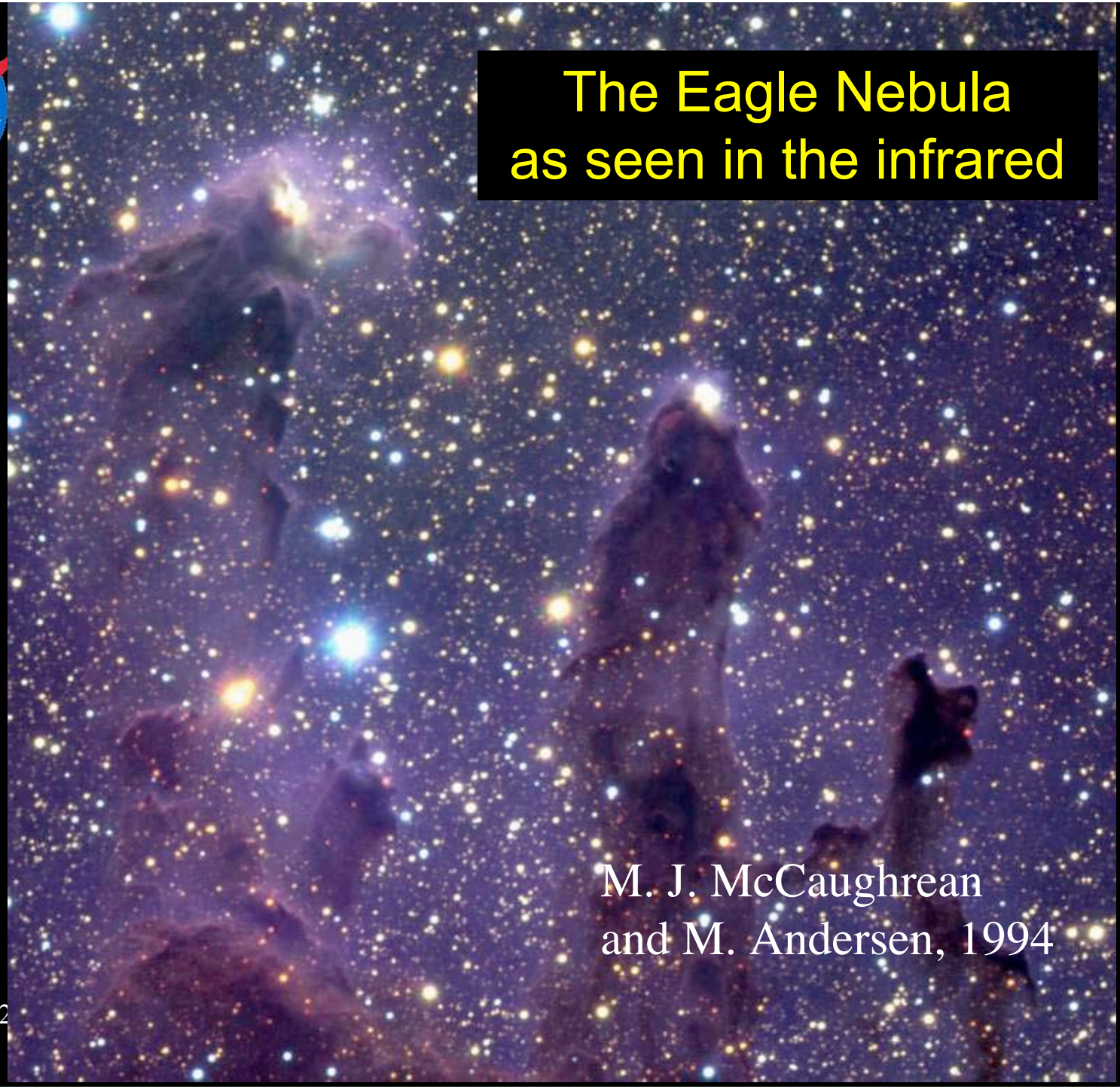
Agglomeration & planetesimals



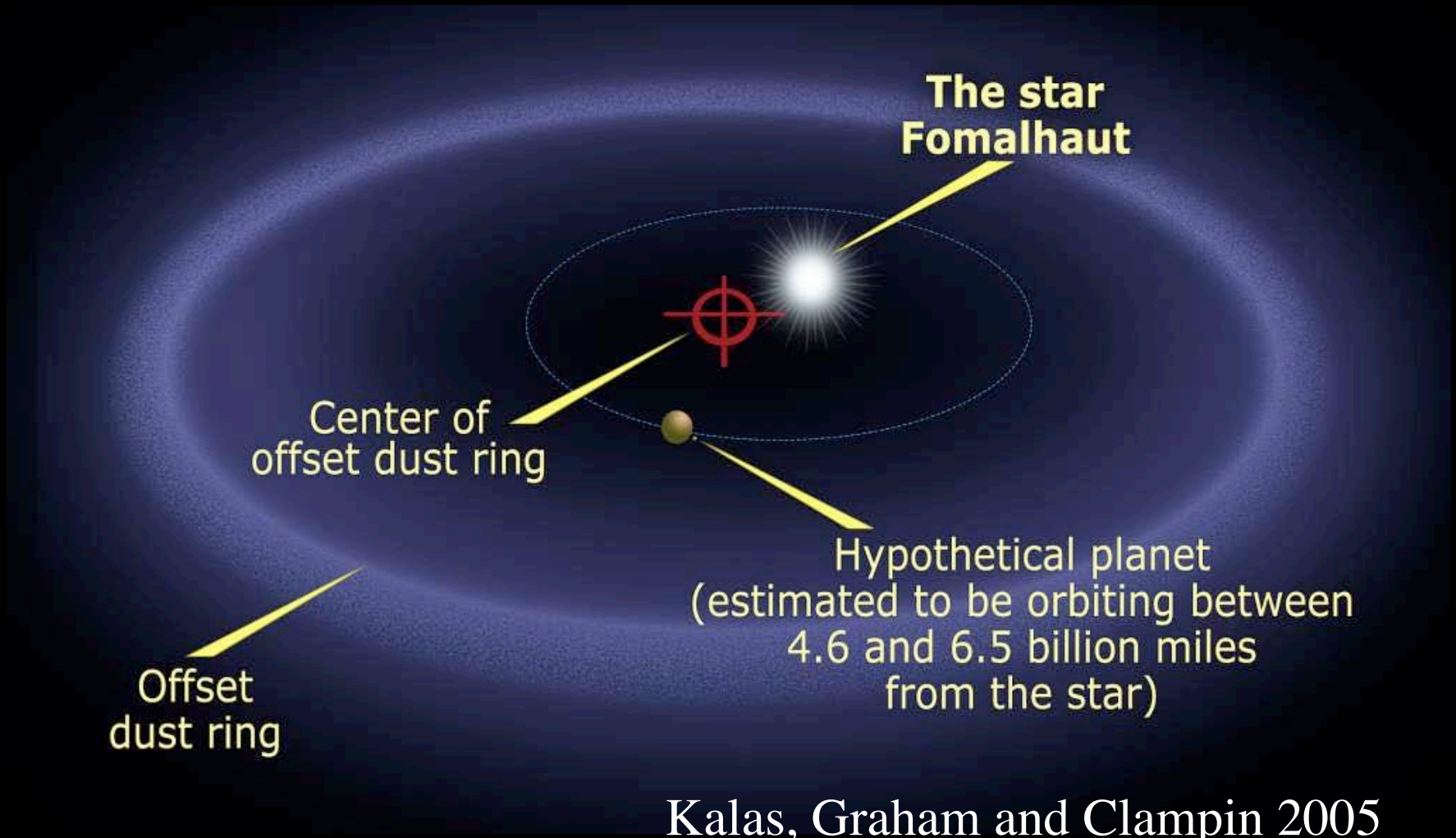
10^{7-9} yrs; 1–100AU; 200–3000K

Mature planetary system

The Eagle Nebula as seen with Hubble


The Eagle Nebula
as seen in the infrared
M. J. McCaughrean
and M. Andersen, 1994

Planetary systems and the origins of life



Kalas, Graham and Clampin 2005

Primary

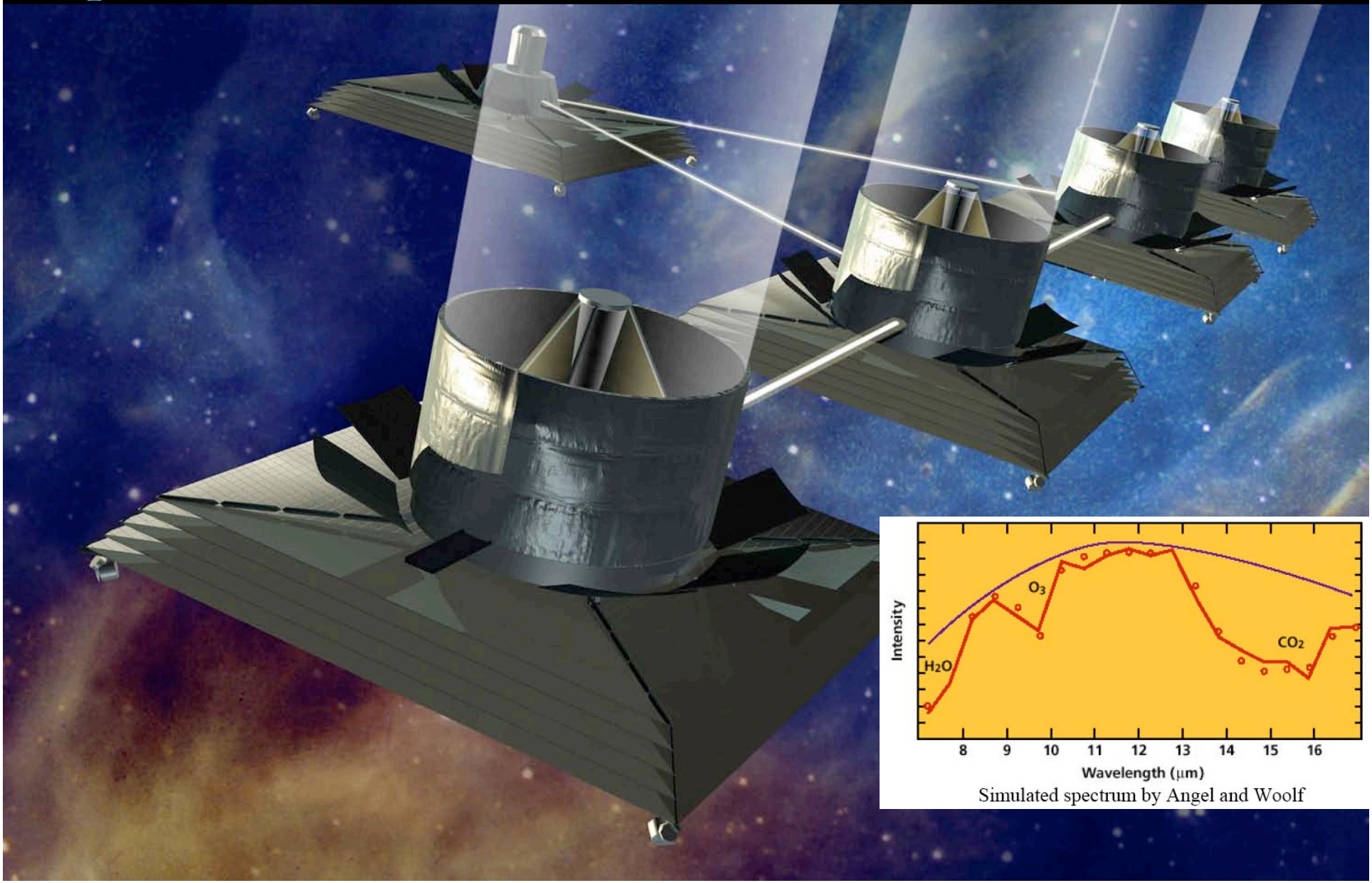
- Planet blocks light from star
- Visible/NIR light (Hubble/JWST)
- Radius of planet/star
- Absorption spectroscopy of planet's atmosphere
- JWST: Look for moons, constituents of atmosphere, Earth-like planets with water

Secondary

- Star blocks light from planet
- Mid-Infrared light (Spitzer/JWST)
- Direct detection of photons from planet
- Temperature of planet
- Emission from surface
- JWST: Atmospheric characteristics, constituents of atmosphere, map planets


Europa
Europa has an ocean and ice sheets

Terrestrial Planet Finder Concept -Interferometer

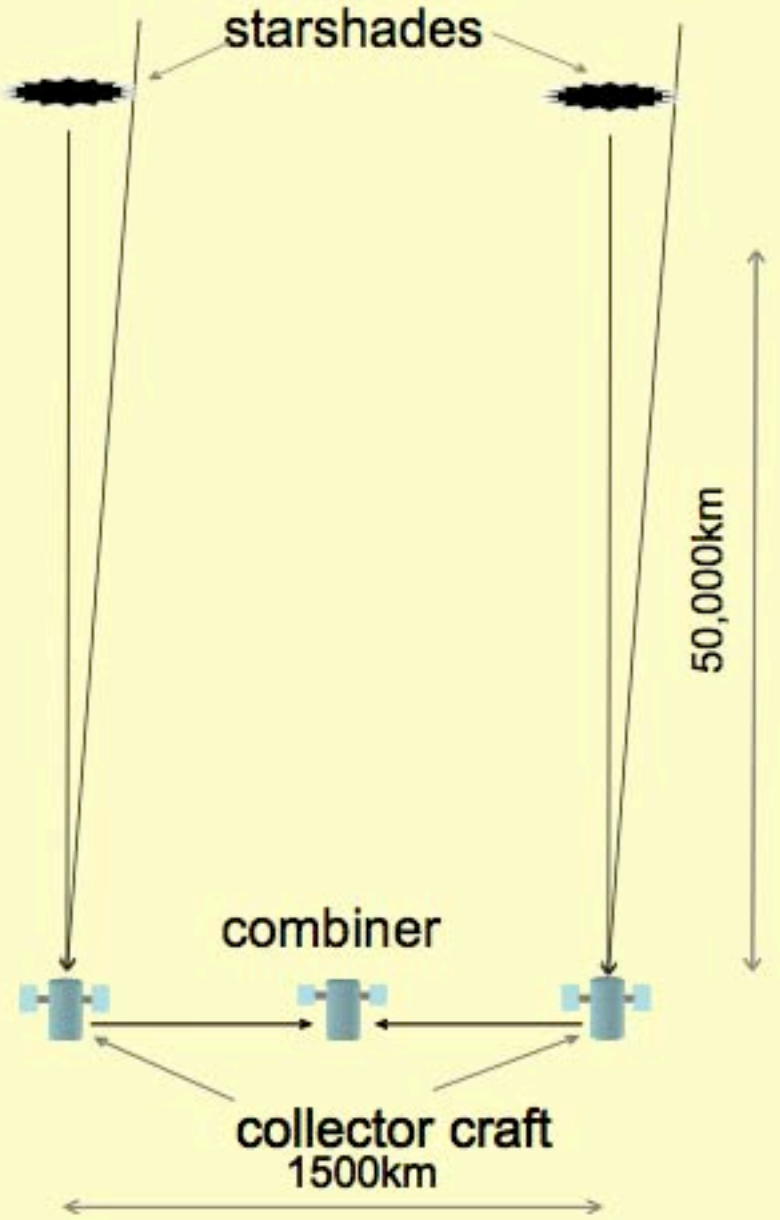


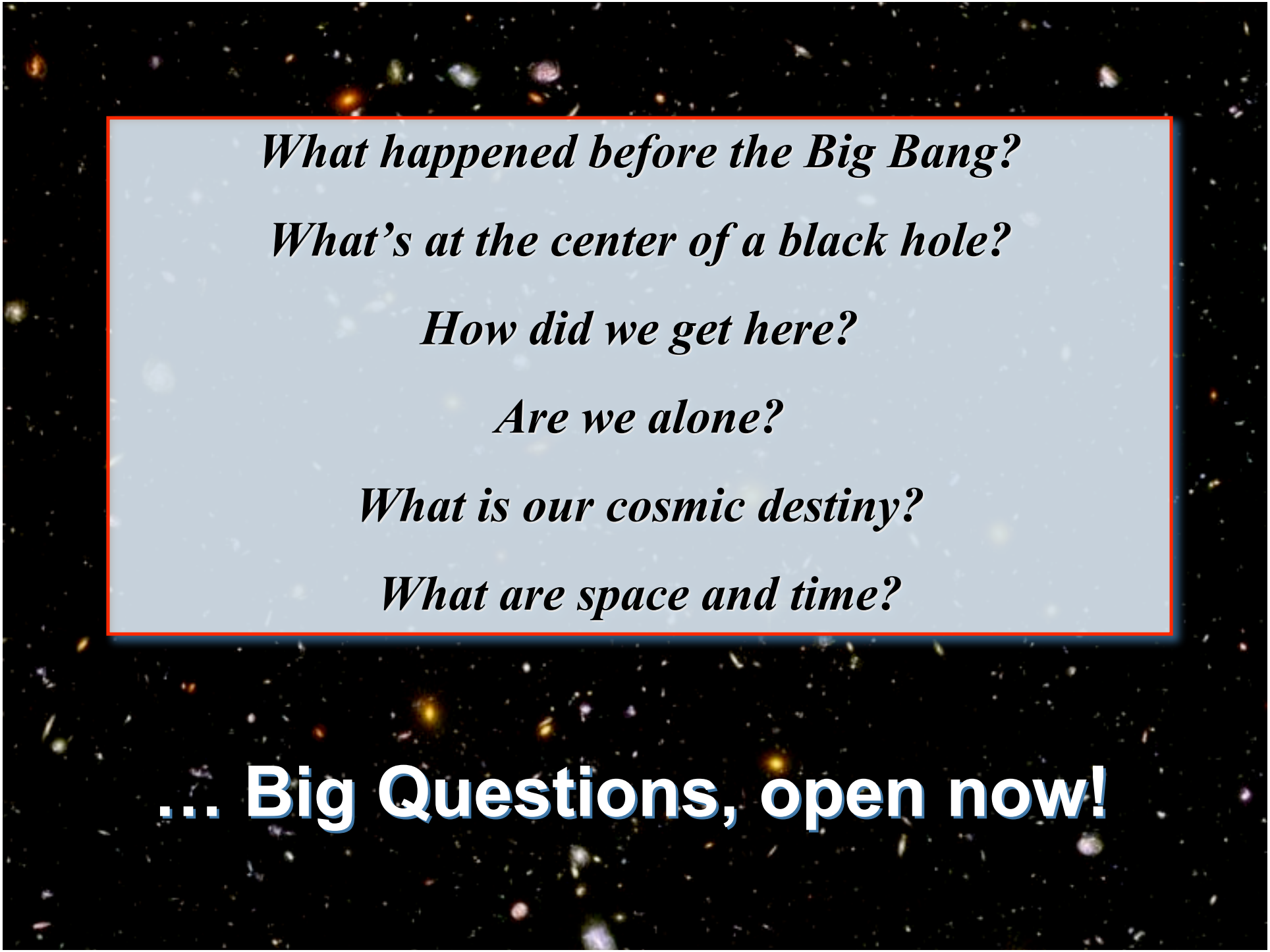
Simulated spectrum by Angel and Woolf

NWI Concept

New Worlds Imager

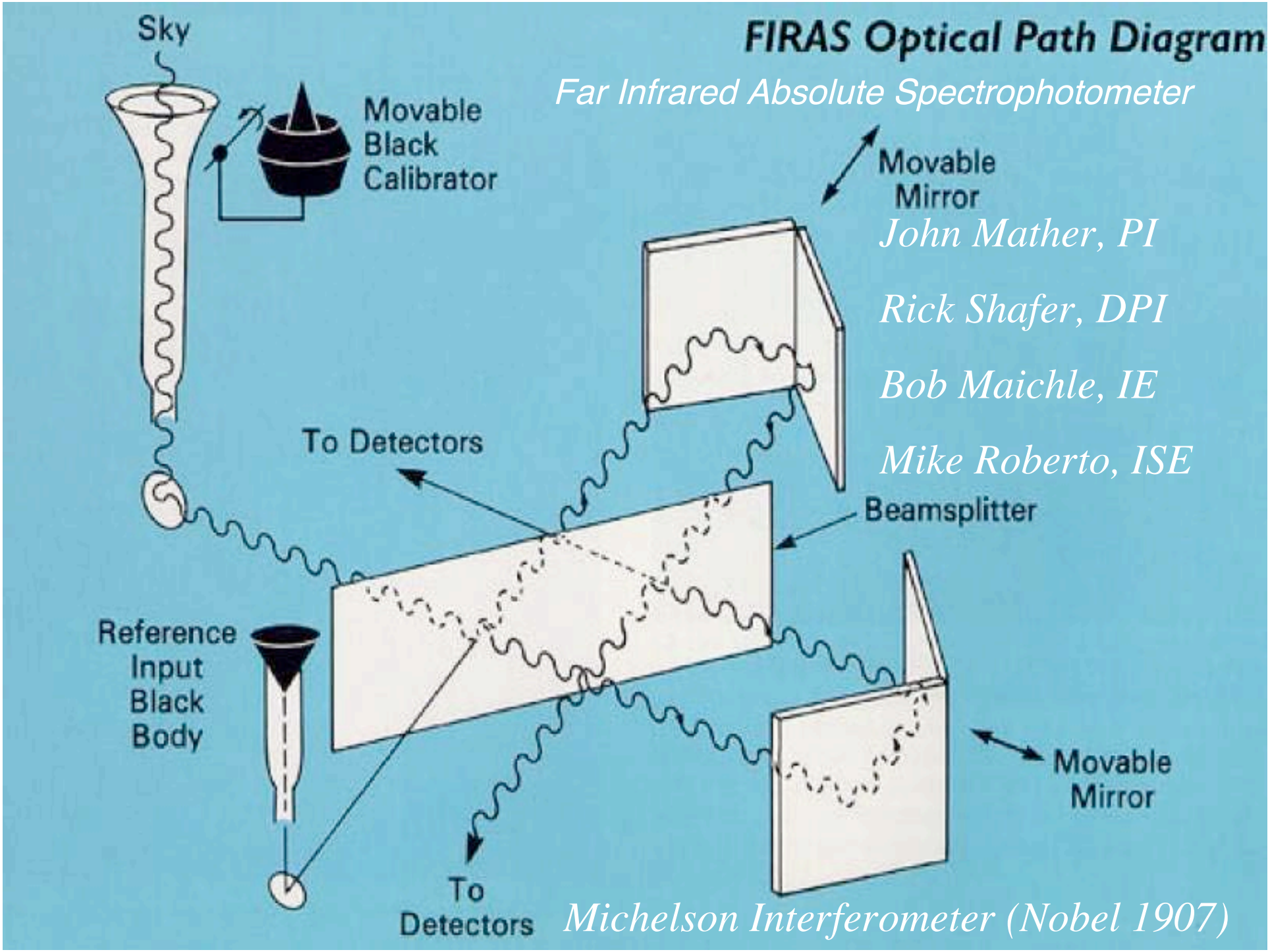
Webster Cash concept, University of Colorado



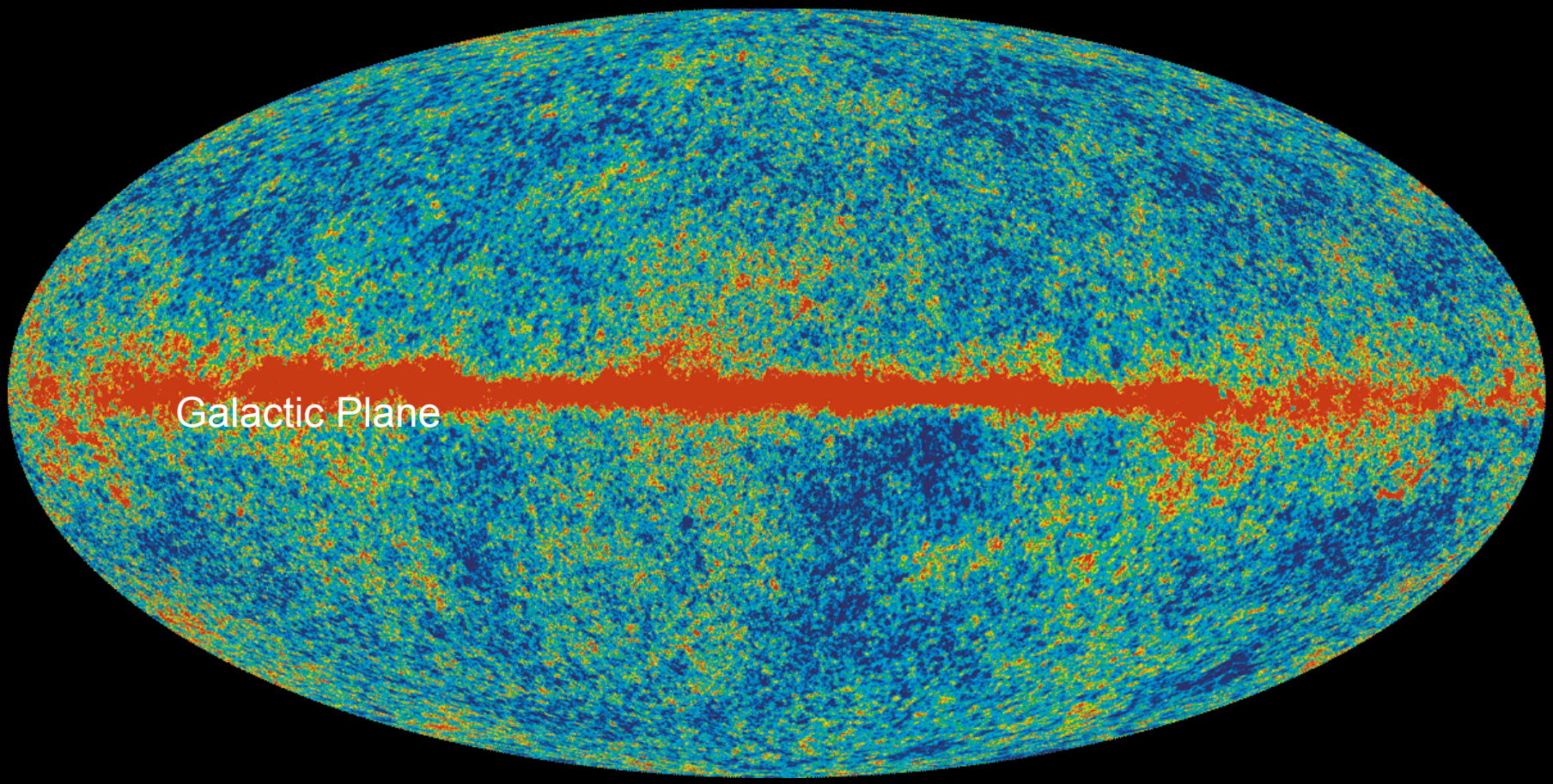

What happened before the Big Bang?
What's at the center of a black hole?
How did we get here?
Are we alone?
What is our cosmic destiny?
What are space and time?
… Big Questions, open now!

The End

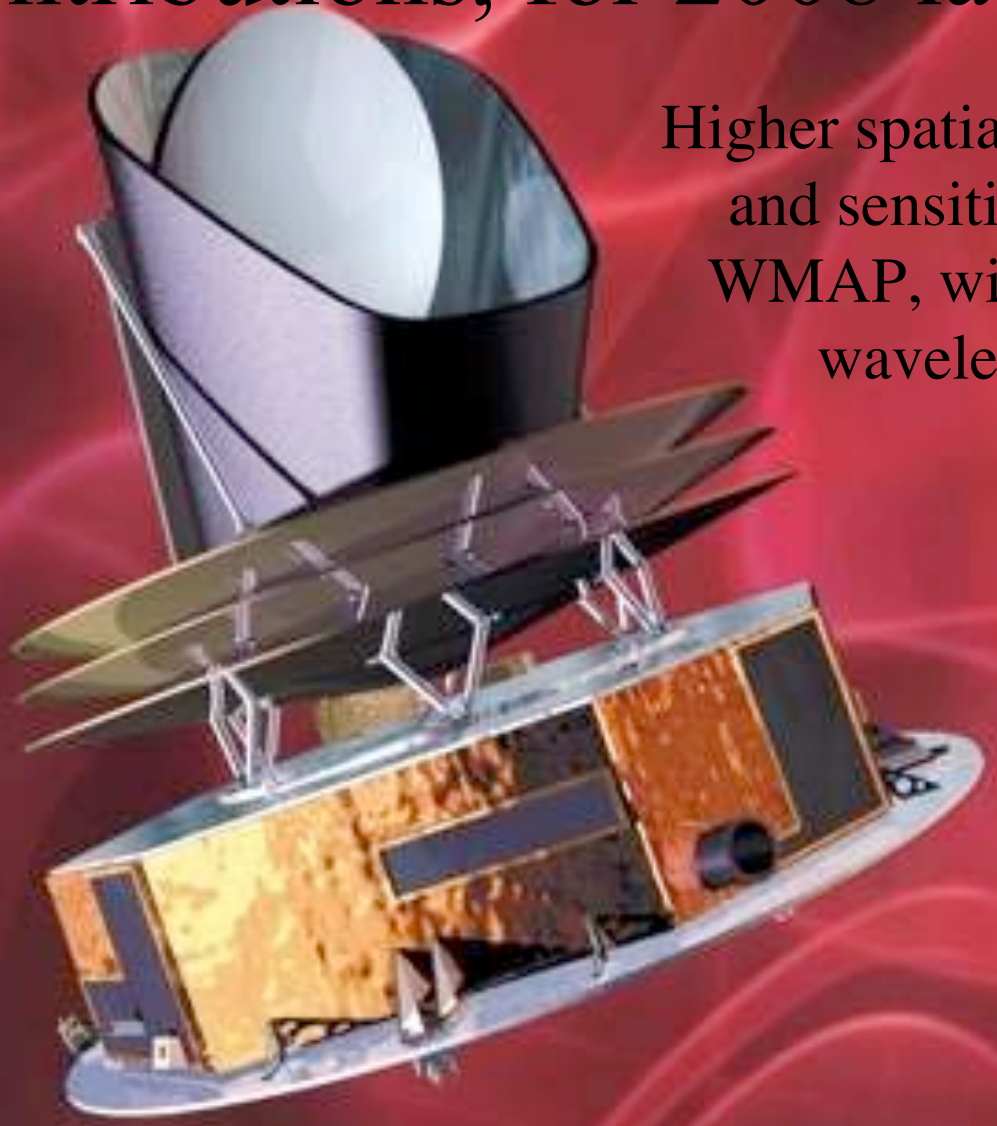
And the beginning!


FIRAS Optical Path Diagram
Far Infrared Absolute Spectrophotometer
Sky
Movable
Black
Calibrator
Movable
Mirror
John Mather, PI
Rick Shafer, DPI
Bob Maichle, IE
Mike Roberto, ISE
To Detectors
Beamsplitter
Reference
Input
Black
Body
Movable
Mirror
To
Detectors
Michelson Interferometer (Nobel 1907)

The Universe at age 380,000 years as seen by Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (3 years of data)



Planck Mission - ESA-led with NASA contributions, for 2008 launch

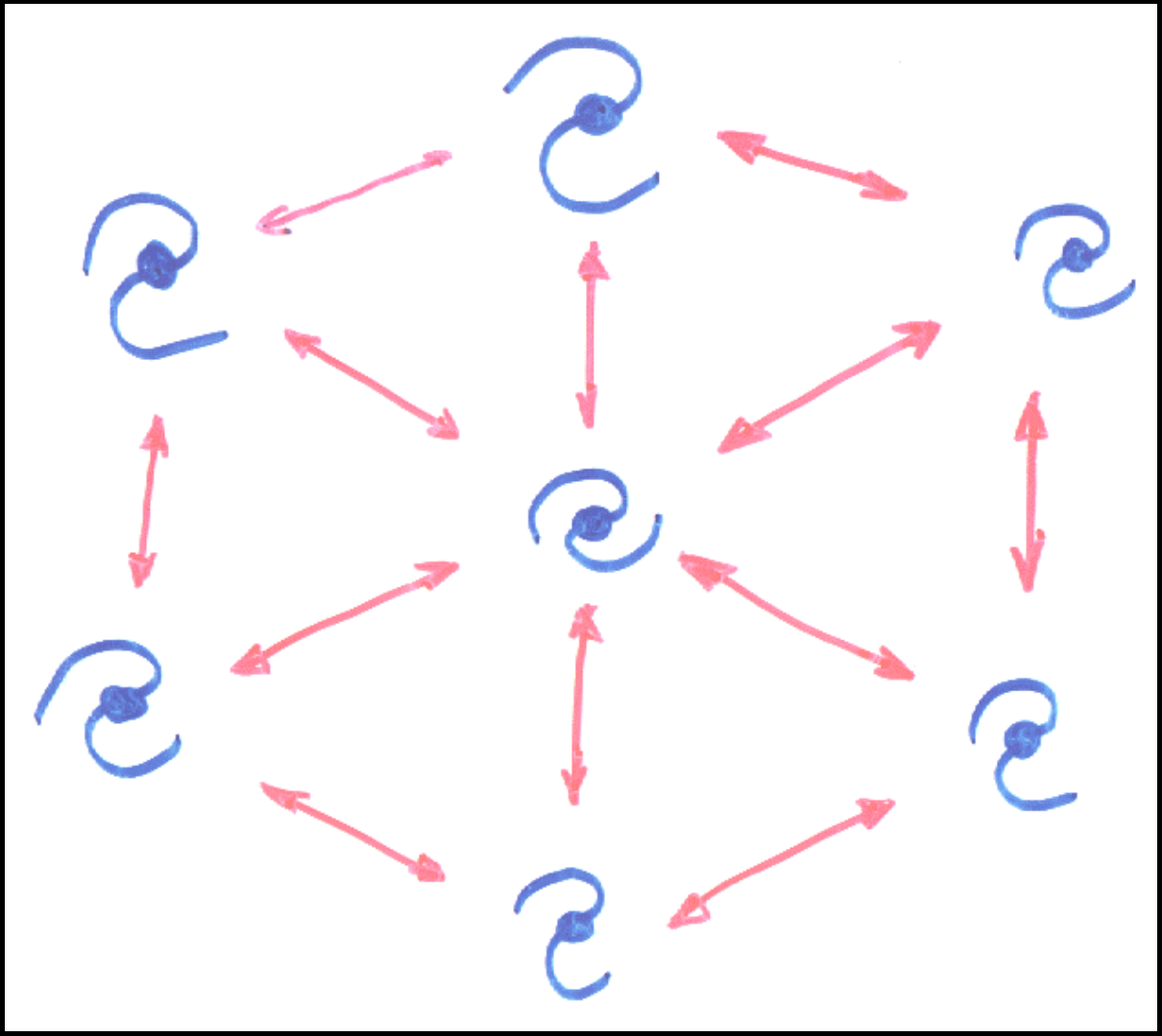


Higher spatial resolution and sensitivity than WMAP, with shorter wavelengths

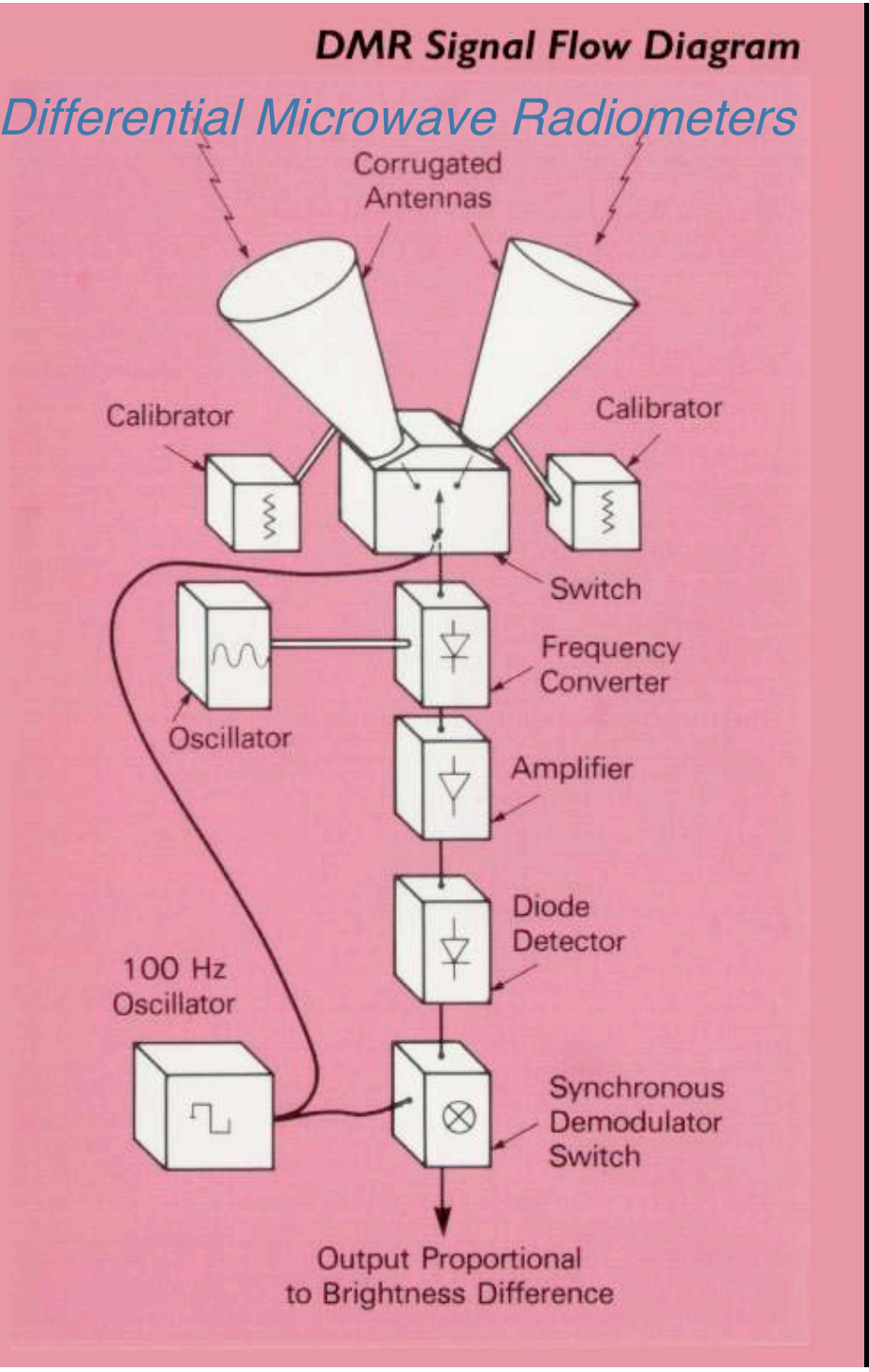
Galaxies attract each other, so the expansion should be slowing down -- Right??

To tell, we need to compare the velocity we measure on nearby galaxies to ones at very high redshift.

In other words, we need to extend Hubble's velocity vs distance plot to much greater distances.



Differential Microwave Radiometers



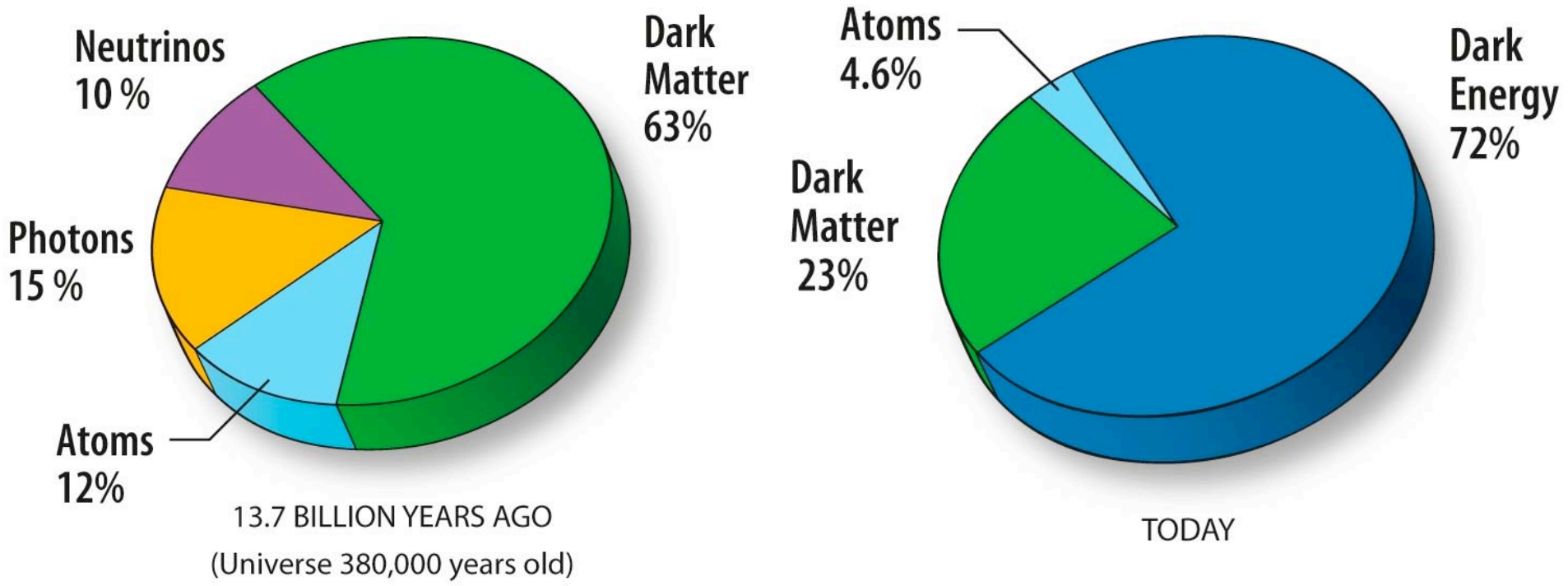
George Smoot

Chuck Bennett

Bernie Klein

Steve Leete

Changing Mix of Mysteries



- Photon and neutrino fractions diminish
- Dark Energy fraction grows with time

COBE (Cosmic Background Explorer) History

- 1974, proposals submitted to NASA
- 1976, Mission Definition Science Team selected by NASA HQ (Nancy Boggess, Program Scientist); PI's chosen
- ~ 1979, decision to build COBE in-house at Goddard Space Flight Center
- 1982, approval to construct for flight
- 1986, Challenger explosion, start COBE redesign for Delta launch
- 1989, Nov. 18, launch
- 1990, first spectrum results; helium ends in 10 mo
- 1992, first anisotropy results
- 1994, end operations
- 1998, major cosmic IR background results

Significance of Spectrum

- Old data were wrong! Old theories explaining bad data were wrong too!
- Hot Big Bang explains everything here. Steady State theory (main alternative) doesn't.
- It was all very "simple" - just a single giant, very uniform "explosion" of the whole universe!


Stars in dust disks in Orion
C. R. Odell et al. 1994